

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8307



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino cuisine is one rooted in culture, tradition, and the pride of all the islands from which they hail. This cuisine not only delights the taste buds, but also tells of the heritage of those who crafted them with passion, care, and love.

As recognition of the importance of maintaining the Filipino identity, the Constitution avows to develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos.¹

Filipino cuisine is undeniably a large facet of our cultural identity with the potential not only to flourish within the Philippines, but also to gain global recognition as one of the world's finest gastronomic experiences. In 2025, TasteAtlas, an online interactive encyclopedia and food map, hailed the Philippines as the 25th best cuisine in the world.²

In a nation increasingly dominated by fast food chains and international cuisine, it is imperative to revitalize the love for our own culture and culinary heritage. This proposed measure seeks to ensure adequate representation of Filipino restaurants in commercial establishments by mandating them to provide dedicated spaces for Filipino restaurants, thereby promoting Filipino cuisine within its cultural heartland—the Philippines.

¹Art. II, Sec. 19, 1987 Constitution.

²Vu, H. (2025, December 18). Filipino cuisine 25th best in the world, behind Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand: TasteAtlas. *VN Express*. Retrieved 23 February 2026 from <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/travel/food-recipes/filipino-cuisine-25th-best-in-the-world-behind-indonesia-vietnam-and-thailand-tasteatlas-4995292.html>

With flavors and tastes that are uniquely our own, we take pride in what our cuisine brings to the table—a truly unique culinary journey, shaped only by the imagination of those who walk on the path of our rich history.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, sweeping initial 'A' followed by a series of connected loops and a long, horizontal tail stroke.

ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
MANDATING ALL COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS TO
ALLOCATE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF FILIPINO RESTAURANTS,
PROMOTING FILIPINO CUISINE, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short title.* – This Act shall be known as the “**Filipino Culinary Promotion and Heritage Act.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and preserve Filipino culinary traditions as an integral part of national culture and identity by providing Filipino restaurateurs and culinary entrepreneurs with equitable access to commercial spaces. The State shall further ensure that Filipino cuisine is given recognition and prominence in malls and other commercial establishments.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all shopping malls, commercial complexes, and similar establishments engaged in leasing food court spaces, restaurant areas, or dining facilities, with a minimum gross leasable area of one thousand (1,000) square meters.

SECTION 4. *Minimum Allocation Requirement.* - At least twenty percent (20%) of all food establishments within covered commercial establishments shall be Filipino restaurants. For malls with fewer than ten (10) food establishments, a minimum of two (2) Filipino restaurants shall be required.

For purposes of this Act, the term “Filipino restaurant” shall mean a dining outlet whose primary menu offerings consist of traditional, modern Filipino, or Filipino-fusion cuisine, representing a homegrown Filipino tradition that reflects the originality of the Filipino people.

SECTION 5. *Incentives.* - Commercial establishments exceeding the minimum allocation shall be entitled to tax credits equivalent to a percentage of their gross rental income derived from Filipino restaurants.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT), shall provide promotional support and recognition to compliant establishments.

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* - Any covered establishment that fails to comply with the minimum allocation requirement under Section 4 shall be subject to the following penalties:

- (a) For the first offense, a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (₱500,000.00) shall be imposed, considering the size of the establishment and the extent of non-compliance;
- (b) For the second offense, a fine of not less than One million pesos (₱1,000,000.00) shall be imposed. The concerned establishment shall likewise be required to submit a compliance plan to the DTI. Further, the concerned establishment may be subject to temporary suspension of its business permit or license until corrective measures are undertaken; and
- (c) For the third offense, a fine of not less than Two million pesos (₱2,000,000.00) shall be imposed. In addition to the maximum fine, the establishment shall be subject to the revocation of its business permits and license.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DTI, DOT, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) shall jointly promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

The IRR shall define standards for Filipino restaurant classification, compliance monitoring, imposition, and application of penalties, and dispute resolution.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,