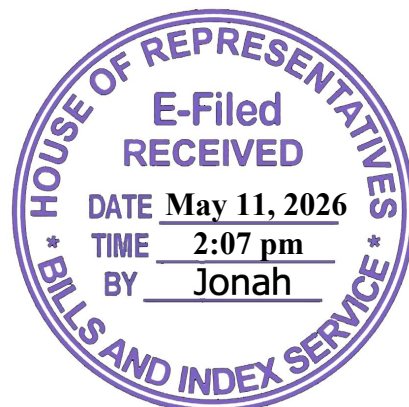


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9175



Introduced by **Rep. BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution recognizes the right of farmers to receive a just share of the fruits of their labor. It is unfortunate that in this day and age of trade globalization, the welfare of the people who grow or raise our food has been neglected. We talk about raising production, consumer protection, importing shortfalls, raising or lowering tariffs, mechanization and the use of technology in farming, livestock growing or aquaculture but never about the plight of the simple farmer, grower, raiser who are the backbone of our food producing sector.

Our rice farmers have been plagued by losses brought about allegedly by the Rice Tariffication Law. Whatever the reason may be, the prevailing market price for their rice produce simply was not enough to cover the time, effort and expenses to raise their crops. SRPs have been imposed on meat and vegetable products to protect consumers. But who protects the supply side of the equation?

It is also a fact that our economy has suffered a severe downturn brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic. Industries will take time to retool and rebuild but while we wait for our industries to catch up or resume normal production, economic experts point at the agricultural or food producing sectors as one of the sectors that could help bring our economy back up. It is however hard to entice farmers and food producers to work the land if it does not prove to be income generating.

This proposed measure of authorizing the Department of Agriculture to regulate FARM GATE PRICES of agricultural produce, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture products will ensure that our farmers, growers, fisherfolk, all the people responsible for raising, catching or growing our food are assured of their just return for the time, effort and expense they have incurred.

The approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA

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House Bill No. **9175**

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**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
TO REGULATE FARM GATE PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL AND
FISHERIES PRODUCTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Short Title. Farm Gate Price Regulation Act

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. The State shall protect the right of farmers, the fisherfolk, livestock raisers and other sectors involved in food production to receive a just share of the fruits of their labor. The State shall therefore come up with a program that ensures the profitability of the food production sector.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Act, the following are hereby defined as follows:

- a. Agricultural Products refer to unprocessed food derived from cultivated plants or animals to sustain or enhance human life. Agricultural produce shall also refer to unprocessed food derived from the following activities:
 1. Agriculture: cultivating soil; planting; raising, and harvesting crops; rearing, feeding, and managing animals
 2. Aquaculture: raising private aquatic animals (fish)
 3. Horticulture: growing fruits, vegetables, and plants
- b. Fisheries Products refer to unprocessed food derived from the activity of catching fish and other living organisms from the wild.
- c. Farm Gate Price refers to the prices received by farmers, fisherfolk, livestock growers for their produce at the location of “farm” or first point of sale. Transportation and marketing costs are not included in farm gate prices.

Section 4. The Department of Agriculture is authorized to regulate farm gate prices of agricultural and fisheries products, as defined in Section 3 of this Act and shall therefore establish a Standard Farm Gate Price index. The Standard Farm Gate Price index shall continuously undergo seasonal review and appropriate changes made, taking into account the time, effort and resources, market conditions and other economic indicators so as to ensure profitability will accrue to the benefit of our food producers.

Section 5. The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards of the Department of Agriculture shall come up with qualitative, quantitative and other related standards which shall serve as the baseline for determining the Standard Farm Gate Price for agricultural and fisheries produce.

Section 6. The Department of Agriculture shall strengthen its Market Linkages program in support of this Act to ensure that the farmers, fisherfolk, livestock raisers and other members of the food producing sector has an outlet for their products as well as ensure the compatibility of supply versus demand.

Section 7. Implementing Rules. – Within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 8. Repealing Clauses. – All laws, executive orders, letters of instructions, rules and regulations and other issuances, or provision thereof, which are inconsistent with the of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Separability Clause. – The provisions of this Act are hereby declared separable. If any provision or portion thereof shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions will remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation, or in the Official Gazette, whichever comes first.

Approved.