



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11084



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING FOOD SECURITY COLD STORAGE FACILITIES IN
EVERY PROVINCE OF THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to support agriculture through appropriate technology, research, and adequate financial, production, and marketing services. In line with this policy, the State must establish mechanisms that preserve perishable agricultural goods, reduce post-harvest losses, and ensure a stable and sufficient food supply for the population.

Food security remains a fundamental national concern, closely linked to economic stability, public welfare, and national resilience. As an agricultural country, the Philippines continues to face persistent challenges in ensuring a stable and sufficient food supply, particularly in the context of post-harvest losses, price volatility, and inefficiencies in the distribution of perishable goods.

A major contributor to these challenges is the lack of adequate cold storage infrastructure nationwide. Perishable agricultural products, such as fruits, vegetables, fish, and meat, are highly vulnerable to spoilage due to insufficient storage and handling facilities. The limited availability of accessible and strategically located cold storage facilities results in significant post-harvest losses, reducing farmers' incomes and contributing to supply constraints and

price volatility that ultimately burden consumers. Access to existing cold chain systems also remains uneven, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas and in provinces with high agricultural production. As a result, many farmers, fisherfolk, and small-scale food processors are compelled to sell their produce immediately at lower prices or risk spoilage, weakening the agricultural value chain and undermining overall food security.

This proposed measure seeks to address these challenges by establishing food security cold storage facilities in every province. By ensuring the availability of temperature-controlled storage infrastructure, the State aims to reduce post-harvest losses, extend the shelf life of perishable goods, and enable more efficient distribution and market timing of agricultural products. The measure further promotes accessibility by requiring strategic placement of facilities and prioritizing underserved and high-producing areas through a phased implementation approach. It also designates the Department of Agriculture as the lead implementing agency and mandates coordination with local government units to ensure the effective establishment, operation, and maintenance of the facilities.

Ultimately, the establishment of food security cold storage facilities is expected to strengthen the agricultural value chain, improve farmers' incomes, stabilize food prices, and enhance the country's capacity to respond to supply disruptions. By investing in critical post-harvest infrastructure, the State affirms its commitment to achieving long-term food security and building a more resilient and efficient food system.

Measures seeking the establishment of cold storage facilities have been filed as early as the 8th Congress, although most were limited to specific local government units. Recognizing their growing importance, similar nationwide measures were also filed during the 19th Congress.

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



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JUDE A. ACIDRE



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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Food Security Cold Storage Facilities Act.*”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes food security and price stability as national priorities essential to promoting the welfare of its citizens. Toward this end, the State shall promote the establishment of cold storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses, minimize food wastage, and preserve agricultural and food products.

The State shall establish food security cold storage facilities in every province and ensure their efficient, accessible, and sustainable operation.

Section 3. *Definition of Food Security Cold Storage Facilities.* – Food Security Cold Storage Facilities refer to temperature-controlled infrastructure

designed to preserve perishable agricultural and food products and maintain their quality and safety.

Such facilities shall be equipped with appropriate refrigeration systems and storage equipment in accordance with standards to be prescribed by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Where practicable, these facilities shall adopt energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable technologies.

Subject to the guidelines of the Department of Health, and if necessary, such facilities may be utilized for the storage of temperature-sensitive health commodities during emergencies.

Section 4. *Establishment of Food Security Cold Storage Facilities in Every Province.* – The Department of Agriculture (DA), as the lead implementing agency, in coordination with the local government units (LGUs), shall establish at least one (1) food security cold storage facility in every province.

The establishment of such facilities shall be implemented in phases, prioritizing underserved provinces, geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), and major food-producing regions.

Facilities shall be strategically located to ensure accessibility to farmers, fisherfolk, food processors, and other stakeholders, taking into account proximity to production areas and transportation networks.

Existing government or private structures that meet the minimum standards or may be upgraded to comply with the requirements of this Act may be designated as food security cold storage facilities, subject to guidelines issued by the DA.

Section 5. *Roles of the Department of Agriculture and local government units.* –

(a) Department of Agriculture (DA). – The DA shall serve as the lead implementing agency and shall:

1. Formulate and implement a National Cold Storage Development Plan, including standards, site selection criteria, and operational guidelines for facilities established under this Act;
2. Provide technical and financial assistance to LGUs for the establishment and upgrading of cold storage facilities;
3. Set and enforce standards for the operation, maintenance, and utilization of the facilities;

4. Monitor and evaluate the performance and utilization of the facilities; and,
5. Ensure alignment of this Act with existing national policies, programs, and industry roadmaps on cold chain development.

(b) Local Government Units (LGUs). – The LGUs shall:

1. Provide appropriate sites for the establishment of the facilities;
2. Oversee the day-to-day operation, management, and maintenance of the facilities; and,
3. Facilitate access of farmers, fisherfolk, cooperatives, and food processors to the facilities.

The DA and LGUs may enter into partnerships with private entities, cooperatives, and other stakeholders for the establishment, operation, and management of cold storage facilities, subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 6. *Incentives.* – The State shall provide incentives to private entities and LGUs that will establish and operate cold storage facilities in accordance with this Act. The incentives may include tax exemptions, subsidies, and other forms of financial support pertinent to such an establishment.

Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall, in consultation with the LGUs and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The LGUs shall ensure the continued operation and maintenance of the facilities, subject to technical and financial assistance from the national government.

Section 9. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Section 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved,