

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. **11324**



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Food waste remains a pressing challenge in the Philippines, with substantial quantities of edible food discarded daily despite the continued prevalence of food insecurity and hunger. Many Filipino students likewise attend classes with inadequate nutrition, adversely affecting their learning, school participation, and overall development. Addressing food waste not only promotes food security but also supports better educational outcomes for learners.

Schools play a vital role in shaping lifelong values and habits. Integrating food waste reduction and prevention into the basic education system will enable learners to appreciate the value of food, practice responsible consumption, and understand the link between food waste, nutrition, environmental sustainability, and climate change. Equipping teachers with the necessary knowledge and instructional resources will further ensure that these principles are effectively integrated into classroom instruction and school activities.

This measure seeks to institutionalize food waste reduction and prevention education in all public and private basic education institutions through curriculum integration, teacher capacity-building, and school-based initiatives that promote responsible food management. By fostering a culture of responsible consumption among learners, this bill advances the State's commitment to quality education, food security, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

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


MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING FOOD WASTE REDUCTION AND PREVENTION
EDUCATION IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS,
PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FOOD CONSUMPTION AMONG LEARNERS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 Waste Reduction and Prevention Act”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes every person's right to an adequate standard of living, including sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. It shall be the policy of the State to attain food security, end hunger, promote the efficient use of the country's food resources, and protect the environment from adverse effects of greenhouse gas emissions arising from food waste.

The State further recognizes that schools play a vital role in developing lifelong habits and values among learners. Through age-appropriate education and school-based initiatives, learners shall be empowered to minimize food waste, appreciate the value of food, and contribute to national efforts toward food security, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all public and private educational institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

SECTION 4. *School-Based Food Waste Reduction and Prevention Program.* – All public and private basic education institutions shall establish and implement a School-Based Food Waste Reduction and Prevention Program appropriate to their size, resources, and circumstances.

The Program shall integrate food waste reduction and prevention into relevant school activities and, where applicable, shall include:

- (a) food waste awareness and education activities;
- (b) responsible food consumption and portion management initiatives;
- (c) proper segregation and management of food waste;
- (d) measures to reduce food waste generated by school canteens and other school food service areas;
- (e) measures to prevent unnecessary food waste in school feeding programs;
- (f) school gardening, composting, and other appropriate activities for the beneficial use of unavoidable food waste;
- (g) learner-led activities and campaigns; and
- (h) partnerships with parents, local government units (LGUs), community organizations, and other stakeholders.

The DepEd, TESDA, and CHED shall issue standards and guidelines for the establishment and implementation of the Program, taking into consideration the varying circumstances and capacities of schools.

SECTION 5. *Food Waste Reduction and Prevention Education and Training.*– Food waste reduction and prevention education shall be institutionalized as part of the educational programs and activities of covered institutions.

The appropriate education agency shall develop age- and level-appropriate training and learning resources for:

- (a) DepEd, for learners, teachers, school heads, and school personnel in basic education institutions;
- (b) CHED, for students, faculty members, and personnel of higher education institutions; and

(c) TESDA, for trainees, trainers, and personnel of technical-vocational institutions.

The training shall cover, as appropriate:

1. the causes and impacts of food waste;
2. responsible food consumption;
3. food planning, preparation, storage, and portion management;
4. food safety and proper handling;
5. food recovery and the appropriate management of edible surplus;
6. composting and other appropriate management of unavoidable food waste;
7. sustainable food systems and resource conservation; and
8. practical strategies for preventing food waste within educational institutions, households, and communities.

SECTION 6. *Integration into Educational Programs.* - The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall each integrate, within their respective mandates and educational frameworks, age- and level-appropriate concepts and activities on food waste reduction and prevention.

For basic education, DepEd shall integrate such concepts into the curriculum and relevant co-curricular activities.

For higher education, CHED shall encourage and support the integration of food waste reduction and prevention into relevant academic programs, general education courses, research, extension, and student development activities.

For technical-vocational education and training, TESDA shall integrate relevant food waste reduction and prevention competencies into appropriate technical-vocational programs and training regulations, particularly those involving food preparation, food service, hospitality, agriculture, and related fields.

SECTION 7. *Student Participation.* - Covered educational institutions shall provide opportunities for meaningful participation of learners and students in food waste reduction and prevention activities through:

- (a) food waste awareness campaigns;
- (b) student-led advocacy programs;
- (c) food waste monitoring activities;
- (d) school garden projects;

- (e) composting projects;
- (f) food recovery initiatives, where appropriate;
- (g) innovation competitions; and
- (h) community extension activities promoting responsible food consumption.

SECTION 8. *Institutional Food Services.* - All covered educational institutions with canteens, cafeterias, food service facilities, or feeding programs shall adopt reasonable measures to prevent and reduce food waste.

These measures may include:

- (a) demand-based food preparation and procurement;
- (b) appropriate serving portions;
- (c) proper food storage and handling;
- (d) monitoring of frequently wasted food items;
- (e) appropriate management of safe and edible surplus food; and
- (f) proper segregation and management of unavoidable food waste.

The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall each issue appropriate guidelines for institutions under their respective jurisdictions.

SECTION 9. *Inter-Agency Coordination.* - The Department of Education shall coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH), National Nutrition Council (NNC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and local government units (LGUs) in implementing this Act.

SECTION 10. *Recognition and Incentives.* - The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall establish appropriate recognition mechanisms for educational institutions that demonstrate exemplary implementation of food waste reduction and prevention programs.

Recognition may be based on demonstrated reduction of avoidable food waste, learner and student participation, innovative practices, institutional food service improvements, and sustained community engagement.

SECTION 11. Appropriations. - *The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.*

SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the NNC, in coordination with all concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid, or 34 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall 35 remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 15. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,