

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11495



**Introduced by AKBAYAN Representatives PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA,
JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO, and DADAH KIRAM ISMULA and
Dinagat Islands Representative KAKA BAG-AO**

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS,
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL
WELFARE, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, AS AMENDED,
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (Republic Act No. 8485), as amended in 2013, was a landmark in Philippine law — the first to impose criminal liability for acts of cruelty against animals. However, more than a decade of enforcement has proven that the law is no longer equal to the scale of the problem. Institutional authority over animal welfare remains fragmented, penalties are weak and undifferentiated, population management tools are absent, and accountability for government-run facilities is virtually nonexistent.¹

Science has also advanced. International standards now recognize animals as sentient beings capable of suffering, fear, and positive emotional states. Animal welfare policy is now based on the Five Domains framework: nutrition, physical environment, health, behavioral expression, and mental state.² Philippine law has not kept pace.

The gap between law and reality is stark. According to a report issued by Mars

¹ World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapters 7.1–7.8 (Animal Welfare); Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW), adopted by the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

² D.J. Mellor, "Updating Animal Welfare Thinking: Moving beyond the 'Five Freedoms' towards 'A Life Worth Living'," *Animals*, Vol. 6, No. 3 (2016), p. 21.

Petcare in 2024, there are 13 million stray cats and dogs in the Philippines.³ Despite the fact that a majority of Philippine households have at least one pet in their domestic residence,⁴ animal welfare has received little priority in State policy and government programs. Worse, in 2020, the Care and Responsibility for Animals (CARA) Welfare Philippines, Inc. reported 3,000 cases of animal abuse, including beating, kicking, and mutilating.⁵

Hence, this Bill, which is an overhaul of the Animal Welfare Act of 1998. It anchors Philippine policy on the Five Domains of Animal Welfare and the Philippines' international commitments, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.⁶ It replaces a weak and scattered enforcement architecture with a single empowered agency, and it closes the legal loopholes that have allowed cruelty to go unpunished.

Specifically, this Bill seeks to:

- (1) Replace the Committee on Animal Welfare with a National Commission on Animal Welfare, an independent and autonomous quasi-judicial agency with full fiscal autonomy, rule-making authority, licensing and enforcement powers, and the mandate to facilitate all efforts in prosecuting animal cruelty cases;⁷
- (2) Mandate local government units to establish dedicated personnel with their local government veterinarians, deploy fully capacitated and trained personnel, and implement Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return programs as the primary, humane method of controlling stray animal populations;⁸
- (3) Impose strict public accountability on pounds, including mandatory spay-neuter prior to release, publicly accessible impoundment records, and minimum operating hours open to the public;
- (4) Prohibit animal experimentation in elementary schools and require all secondary and tertiary institutions to adhere to global standards in the preservation and care of animals, such as the internationally recognized 3Rs Principle (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement);⁹

³ Zaldarriaga, Joe. "The Private Sector and Animal Welfare." Philippine News Agency, February 17, 2025. <<https://www.pna.gov.ph/opinion/pieces/1014-the-private-sector-and-animal-welfare>>

⁴ Id.

⁵ Wang, Mel. "Inside The Never-Ending Fight Against Animal Abuse In The Philippines" – Rolling Stone Philippines, October 6, 2025.

<https://rollingstonephilippines.com/state-of-affairs/animal-rights-abuse-philippines/>

⁶ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1973, to which the Philippines is a State Party.

⁷ RA 8485, Sec. 1, as amended by RA 10631, constitutes the Committee on Animal Welfare (CAW) under the Department of Agriculture.

⁸ Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) is endorsed by the World Health Organization and WOA as an evidence-based, humane method of managing free-roaming dog and cat populations. See WHO/WSPA, Guidelines for Dog Population Management (1990).

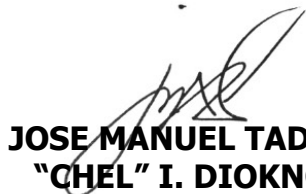
⁹ The 3Rs Principle was articulated by W.M.S. Russell and R.L. Burch, *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique* (1959), and has since been adopted by the International Council for Laboratory

- (5) Overhaul the penalty structure with a graduated scale of up to three years' imprisonment and a fine of Php 500,000.00 for causing the death of an animal, up to eighteen months and Php 80,000.00 for grave injury, and up to one year and Php 30,000.00 for lesser harm, with maximum penalties automatically applied in aggravated cases;
- (6) Comprehensively prohibit all forms of dog-meat trading, animal cruelty content, animal fighting, and animal poisoning as inherently cruel and exploitative practices, and provide penalties for violation thereof.
- (7) Provides for the integration of Animal Welfare Education in basic and higher education institutions.
- (8) Establish a presumption of neglect against the owner or occupant of premises where an animal is found neglected, and codify the right of good-faith rescuers to enter such premises under the doctrine of *negotiorum gestio*¹⁰ without criminal liability;

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



PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA
Akbayan Representative



**JOSE MANUEL TADEO
"CHEL" I. DIOKNO**
Akbayan Representative



DADAH KIRAM ISMULA
Akbayan Representative



KAKA BAG-AO
Dinagat Islands Representative

Animal Science (ICLAS) as the global ethical standard.

¹⁰ *Negotiorum gestio* is governed by Articles 2144–2153 of the Civil Code of the Philippines, recognizing the lawful right of a person to intervene to protect the interests of another without prior authority when imminent harm is present.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11495

**Introduced by AKBAYAN Representatives PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA,
JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO, and DADAH KIRAM ISMULA and
Dinagat Islands Representative KAKA BAG-AO**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS,
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL
WELFARE, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, AS AMENDED,
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Animal Life Advocacy
2 and Guardianship Act (ALAGA)."

3
4 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, is hereby amended to
5 read as follows;

6
7 ~~[Section 1. It is the purpose of this Act to protect and promote the welfare of all~~
8 ~~animals in the Philippines by supervising and regulating the establishment and~~
9 ~~operations of all facilities utilized for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating or~~
10 ~~training of all animals either as objects of trade or as household pets. For~~
11 ~~purposes of this Act, pet animal shall include birds.]~~

12
13 **SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY. IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF**
14 **THE STATE TO PROTECT ANIMALS FROM ALL FORMS OF CRUELTY,**
15 **NEGLECT, AND ABUSE, FULLY RECOGNIZING THEIR SENTIENCE,**
16 **SPECIES, AND ECOLOGICAL ROLE.**

17
18 **IN PURSUIT OF THIS POLICY, THE STATE SHALL PROMOTE THE**
19 **HUMANE AND ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS BASED ON THE FIVE**

DOMAINS OF ANIMAL WELFARE, NAMELY:

(A) ADEQUATE NUTRITION;

(B) APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT;

(C) OPTIMAL HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE;

(D) OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS NATURAL BEHAVIORS; AND

(E) THE PROMOTION OF A POSITIVE MENTAL STATE FREE FROM FEAR, DISTRESS, AND SUFFERING.

THE STATE RECOGNIZES ANIMALS AS SENTIENT BEINGS CAPABLE OF FEELING PAIN, DISTRESS, COMFORT, AND PLEASURE. IT WILL ALIGN DOMESTIC ANIMAL WELFARE LAW WITH THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON ANIMAL WELFARE, WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS, AND THE PHILIPPINES' OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA.

SECTION 3. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~[Section 2. No person, association, partnership, corporation, cooperative or any government agency or instrumentality including slaughter houses shall establish, maintain and operate any pet shop, kennel, veterinary clinic, veterinary hospital, stockyard, corral, stud farm or stock farm or zoo for the breeding, treatment, sale or trading, or training of animals without first securing from the Bureau of Animal Industry a certificate of registration therefor.~~

~~The certificate shall be issued upon proof that the facilities of such establishment for animals are adequate, clean and sanitary and will not be used for, nor cause pain and/or suffering to the animals. The certificate shall be valid for a period of one (1) year unless earlier cancelled for just cause before the expiration of its term by the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry and may be renewed from year to year upon compliance with the conditions imposed hereunder. The Bureau shall charge reasonable fees for the issuance or renewal of such certificate.~~

~~The condition that such facilities be adequate, clean and sanitary, and that they will not be used for nor cause pain and/or suffering to the animals is a continuing requirement for the operation of these establishments. The Bureau may revoke or cancel such certificate of registration for failure to observe these conditions and other just causes.]~~

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT:

- (A) **ANIMALS REFER TO ALL LIVING NON-HUMAN TERRESTRIAL, AQUATIC, AND MARINE CREATURES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO COMPANION ANIMALS, BIRDS, WILDLIFE, AND ANIMALS KEPT FOR BREEDING, TRADE, RESEARCH, TRAINING, EXHIBITION, RECREATION, LABOR, OR HOUSEHOLD PURPOSES: PROVIDED, THAT ANIMALS RAISED OR KEPT PRIMARILY FOR SLAUGHTER, FOOD, OR AGRICULTURAL CONSUMPTION SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED, EXCEPT INsofar AS PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS GOVERNING PROTECTION AGAINST CRUELTY AND UNNECESSARY SUFFERING IS CONCERNED;**
- (B) **ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY REFERS TO A GOVERNMENT-OPERATED OR ACCREDITED ESTABLISHMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CAPTURE, IMPOUNDMENT, QUARANTINE, AND DISPOSITION OF STRAY, ABANDONED, OR NUISANCE ANIMALS, INCLUDING CITY OR MUNICIPAL ANIMAL POUNDS, VETERINARY QUARANTINE FACILITIES, AND OTHER FACILITIES DESIGNATED OR ACCREDITED BY THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY;**
- (C) **ANIMAL SHELTER REFERS TO A REGISTERED OR ACCREDITED ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATED BY A GOVERNMENT ENTITY OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, THAT PROVIDES TEMPORARY REFUGE, CARE, AND REHABILITATION FOR STRAY, ABANDONED, NEGLECTED, OR SURRENDERED ANIMALS;**
- (D) **ANIMAL WELFARE PARTNER REFERS TO A REGISTERED NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, ACADEMIC INSTITUTION, OR PRIVATE ENTITY ACCREDITED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE TO ASSIST IN RESCUE, REHABILITATION, EDUCATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN SUPPORT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT; AND**
- (E) **TRAP-NEUTER-VACCINATE-RETURN (TNVR) PROGRAM REFERS TO A HUMANE POPULATION CONTROL METHOD FOR FREE-ROAMING DOGS AND CATS INVOLVING THEIR CAPTURE, STERILIZATION, VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES AND OTHER DISEASES, AND RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION.**

SECTION 4. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

[Section 4. It shall be the duty of any owner or operator of any land, air or water public utility transporting pet, wildlife and all other animals to provide in all cases

adequate, clean and sanitary facilities for the safe conveyance and delivery thereof to their consignee at the place of consignment. They shall provide sufficient food and water for such animals while in transit for more than twelve (12) hours or whenever necessary.

No public utility shall transport any such animal without a written permit from the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry or his/her authorized representative. No cruel confinement or restraint shall be made on such animals while being transported.

Any form of cruelty shall be penalized even if the transporter has obtained a permit from the Bureau of Animal Industry. Cruelty in transporting includes overcrowding, placing of animals in the trunks or under the hood trunks of the vehicles.]

SECTION 4. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE. – THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE IS HEREBY CREATED AS A QUASI-JUDICIAL AGENCY ATTACHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. IT SHALL SERVE AS THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY OVER ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO ANIMAL WELFARE, INCLUDING ENFORCEMENT, LICENSING, REGULATION OF FACILITIES, AND ADJUDICATION OF VIOLATIONS. IT SHALL POSSESS FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY WITH ITS OWN BUDGET LINE ITEM UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND SHALL NOT BE SUBSUMED UNDER ANY EXISTING BUREAU OR OFFICE.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE ARE HEREBY TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE. THE EXISTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE SHALL BE RECONSTITUTED AS THE NATIONAL ANIMAL CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL, WHICH WILL SERVE AS A CONSULTATIVE BODY TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE ON STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, AND POLICY DIRECTION.

SECTION 5. A new Section 4-A is hereby added after Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8485 to read as follows:

SECTION 4-A. COMPOSITION. – THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SHALL SERVE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE IN AN EX OFFICIO CAPACITY. THE PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT SIX (6) OTHER MEMBERS, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) TWO (2) SCIENTISTS SPECIALIZING IN THE WELFARE OF WILDLIFE, FARMED ANIMALS, COMPANION ANIMALS, OR WORKING ANIMALS;

(B) ONE (1) LAWYER ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE LAW; AND

1
2 **(C) THREE (3) ANIMAL WELFARE ADVOCATES OR REPRESENTATIVES**
3 **OF NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN ANIMAL**
4 **WELFARE.**
5

6 **SECTION 6.** Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, is hereby amended to
7 read as follows:
8

9 ~~[Section 5. There is hereby created a Committee on Animal Welfare attached to~~
10 ~~the Department of Agriculture which shall, subject to the approval of the~~
11 ~~Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, issue the necessary rules and~~
12 ~~regulations for the strict implementation of the provisions of this Act, including~~
13 ~~the setting of safety and sanitary standards, within thirty (30) calendar days~~
14 ~~following its approval. Such guidelines shall be reviewed by the Committee every~~
15 ~~three (3) years from its implementation or whenever necessary.~~
16

17 The Committee shall be composed of the official representatives of the following:
18 (1) The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
19 (2) Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS);
20 (3) Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
21 (4) Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of
22 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
23 (5) National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) of the DA;
24 (6) Agriculture Training Institute (ATI) of the DA;
25 (7) Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA);
26 (8) Veterinary Practitioners Association of the Philippines (VPAP);
27 (9) Philippine Animal Hospital Association of the Philippines (PAHA);
28 (10) Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS);
29 (11) Philippine Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PSPCA);
30 (12) Philippine Society of Swine Practitioners (PSSP);
31 (13) Philippine College of Canine Practitioners (PCCP); and
32 (14) Philippine Society of Animal Science (PSAS).
33

34 ~~The Committee shall be chaired by a representative coming from the private~~
35 ~~sector and shall have two (2) vice chairpersons composed of the representative~~
36 ~~of the BAI and another from the private sector.~~
37

38 ~~The Committee shall meet quarterly or as often as the need arises. The~~
39 ~~Committee members shall not receive any compensation but may receive~~
40 ~~reasonable honoraria from time to time.]~~
41

42
43 **SECTION 5. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS. THE NATIONAL COMMISSION**
44 **ON ANIMAL WELFARE SHALL EXERCISE THE FOLLOWING POWERS**
45 **AND FUNCTIONS:**
46

47 **(A) RULE-MAKING**
48

- i. ISSUE RULES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES RELATED TO ANIMAL TREATMENT, TRANSPORT, RESEARCH, AND FACILITY OPERATIONS BASED ON THIS ACT; AND
- ii. ESTABLISH COORDINATION MECHANISMS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE ISSUANCE OF HUMANE AND CRUELTY-FREE RULES WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS.

(B) LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

- i. REGISTER AND REGULATE ALL ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES, POUNDS, ANIMAL SHELTERS, ANIMAL WELFARE PARTNERS, AND ALL PERSONS ENGAGING WITH ANIMALS THROUGH PRACTICE OR PROFESSION;
- ii. ISSUE, SUSPEND, OR REVOKE ALL RELEVANT PERMITS AND LICENSES FOR ALL BUSINESSES OR ENTERPRISES ENGAGED IN THE POSSESSION, CONFINEMENT, TREATMENT, SALE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMALS;
- iii. ISSUE ITS OWN SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS, FINES AND PENALTIES; AND
- iv. REGULATE THE USE OF ANIMALS IN SPORTING EVENTS, FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS, AND PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS.

(C) ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION

- i. ENFORCE ALL LAWS RELATING TO ANIMAL WELFARE NOT EXPRESSLY REPEALED OR MODIFIED BY THIS ACT;
- ii. ENGAGE WITH THE RELEVANT PROSECUTORIAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CASES OF ANIMAL ABUSE, MALTREATMENT, AND CRUELTY;
- iii. PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS ON FILING ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES;
- iv. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON ALL ACTIVITIES,

1 PRACTICES, OR PROGRAMS OF THESE AGENCIES THAT MAY
2 INVOLVE THE HUMANE AND CRUELTY-FREE TREATMENT OF
3 ANIMALS; AND

- 4
5 v. CONDUCT PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS ON ANIMAL
6 WELFARE AND HUMANE CARE.
7

8 (D) QUASI-JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS
9

- 10 i. MOTU PROPRIO OR UPON PETITION OF ANY INTERESTED
11 PARTY, AFTER NOTICE AND HEARING, MODIFY, SUSPEND OR
12 REVOKE ANY PERMIT OR LICENSE FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY
13 WITH AND/OR FOR VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF LAW
14 OR ANY ORDER, RULES OR REGULATIONS ISSUED
15 THEREUNDER: PROVIDED, THAT THE COMMISSION MAY FOR
16 GOOD CAUSE AND WITHOUT NOTICE AND HEARING, ORDER
17 THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SUCH PERMIT OR
18 LICENSE WHENEVER SUCH STEP, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE
19 COMMISSION, SHALL BE NECESSARY AND FOR THE BEST
20 INTEREST OF ANIMAL WELFARE: PROVIDED, FURTHER,
21 THAT EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE SUMMARY ACTIONS ARE
22 TAKEN, IN THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE AND OTHER
23 PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE REGISTRY OF FACILITIES
24 OR ANY ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECT, THE COMMISSION SHALL
25 ACT AS A BODY, AND ALL HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS
26 BEFORE IT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE RULES OF
27 PROCEDURES IT SHALL PROMULGATE;
28
29 ii. FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF
30 THIS ACT, THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND
31 AUTHORITY TO SUMMON PARTIES, ISSUE SUBPOENA OR
32 REQUIRE THE PRODUCTION OF SUCH BOOKS, PAPERS,
33 CONTRACTS, RECORDS, OR STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS
34 MAY BE MATERIAL TO A JUST DETERMINATION OF ANY
35 MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION; AND
36
37 iii. DESIGNATE ANY OF ITS MEMBERS OR OFFICERS TO
38 CONDUCT HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS ON ANY
39 MATTER PENDING BEFORE IT.
40

41 **SECTION 7.** A new Section 5-A is hereby added after Section 5 of Republic Act No.
42 8485 to read as follows:
43

44 **SECTION 5-A. FUNDING.** THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL
45 **WELFARE SHALL BE PROVIDED AN ANNUAL BUDGET SUFFICIENT FOR**
46 **ITS OPERATIONS, ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, STAFFING, TRAINING,**
47 **AND PUBLIC EDUCATION SOURCED FROM THE APPROPRIATIONS OF**
48 **THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND SUBSEQUENTLY INCLUDED**

1 **AS A SEPARATE LINE ITEM IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT,**
2 **THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE SHALL MAINTAIN**
3 **AN ANIMAL WELFARE FUND COMPOSED OF FINES AND DAMAGES**
4 **COLLECTED UNDER THIS ACT, PERMIT AND REGISTRATION FEES,**
5 **GRANTS AND DONATIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS. ALL**
6 **FUNDS SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE**
7 **INITIATIVES UNDER THIS ACT.**

8
9 **THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE MAY CREATE**
10 **SUCH INTERNAL OFFICES AND HIRE PERSONNEL AS NEEDED FOR ITS**
11 **OPERATION.**

12
13 **SECTION 8.** A new Section 5-B is hereby added after Section 5-A of Republic Act No.
14 8485 to read as follows:

15
16 **SECTION 5-B. LOCALIZATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE EFFORTS. LOCAL**
17 **GOVERNMENTS SHALL ESTABLISH SYSTEMS FOR THE EFFECTIVE**
18 **IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE LAWS WITHIN THEIR**
19 **RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS. EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT**
20 **SHALL:**

- 21
22 (A) **ESTABLISH A MUNICIPAL OR CITY ANIMAL WELFARE OFFICE TO**
23 **BE HEADED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VETERINARIAN, IN**
24 **ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 489 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OR**
25 **THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE;**
26
27 (B) **DEPLOY PERSONNEL TRAINED AND ACCREDITED BY THE BUREAU**
28 **OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY FOR THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY ANIMAL**
29 **WELFARE OFFICE;**
30
31 (C) **IMPLEMENT TNVR PROGRAMS AS THE PRIMARY HUMANE**
32 **METHOD FOR MANAGING FREE-ROAMING DOG AND CAT**
33 **POPULATIONS;**
34
35 (D) **OPERATE AND MAINTAIN ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES**
36 **CONSISTENT WITH HUMANE STANDARDS SET BY THE NATIONAL**
37 **COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE; AND**
38
39 (E) **INTEGRATE ANIMAL WELFARE INTO BARANGAY-LEVEL DISASTER**
40 **PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS TO ENSURE**
41 **ADEQUATE CARE FOR ANIMALS.**

42
43 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS MAY ADOPT ORDINANCES PROVIDING**
44 **GREATER PROTECTION OR MORE SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION**
45 **MEASURES CONSISTENT WITH THIS ACT. THEY MAY ENTER INTO**
46 **COOPERATION AGREEMENTS TO JOINTLY FUND OR OPERATE SHARED**
47 **ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES.**
48

SECTION 9. A new Section 5-C is hereby added after Section 5-B of Republic Act No. 8485 to read as follows:

SECTION 5-C. REGULATION OF ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES. EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT SHALL MAINTAIN AN ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY AND SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS REGULAR BUDGET:

- (A) ADEQUATE FOOD FOR EACH IMPOUNDED ANIMAL AT LEAST ONCE DAILY;**
- (B) NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR CARE, MAINTENANCE, AND WELFARE OF IMPOUNDED ANIMALS;**
- (C) IMMEDIATE TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS WITH OPEN WOUNDS OR INJURIES; AND**
- (D) HUMANE EUTHANASIA, CONDUCTED BY OR UPON THE ORDER OF A LICENSED VETERINARIAN, FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE SEVERELY INJURED, TERMINALLY ILL, OR AFFLICTED WITH A HIGHLY COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.**

THE CONDUCT OF EUTHANASIA SHALL BE REPORTED TO THE PUBLIC AT LEAST EIGHT (8) HOURS PRIOR TO THE PROCEDURE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA OR OTHER PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE MEANS, ACCOMPANIED BY A VETERINARIAN'S ASSESSMENT.

ALL IMPOUNDED ANIMALS SHALL BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED PRIOR TO ADOPTION OR RELEASE. IF AN ANIMAL IS CURRENTLY UNFIT FOR SURGERY, THE OWNER OR ADOPTER MUST EXECUTE A WRITTEN UNDERTAKING TO HAVE THE PROCEDURE PERFORMED WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AND SUBMIT VETERINARY PROOF OF COMPLIANCE. FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL SUBJECT THE OWNER TO FINES FOR EACH MONTH OF DELAY OF THE SURGERY OR PROCEDURE, BASED ON THE SCHEDULE OF FINES AND CORRESPONDING AMOUNTS FIXED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE. ANY PERSON WHO RELEASES ANIMALS WITHOUT SPAY-NEUTER COMPLIANCE SHALL BE DEEMED IN VIOLATION OF THIS ACT.

ANIMALS THAT HAVE BEEN VACCINATED, SPAYED AND NEUTERED, WHICH ARE APPARENTLY HEALTHY, SHOULD NOT BE IMPOUNDED UNLESS THEIR PRESENCE HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO POSE A DANGER TO THE COMMUNITY DUE TO RABIES, EXISTENCE OF DISEASES AND BEHAVIORAL ISSUES.

ALL ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES SHALL MAINTAIN PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE RECORDS ON IMPOUNDED ANIMALS, ADOPTIONS, EUTHANASIA, DEATHS, AND DISEASE OUTBREAKS. ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS,

AND HOLIDAYS, AND UNTIL AT LEAST 7:00 PM ON WEEKDAYS.

FAILURE TO RESCUE OR RELEASE CAGED ANIMALS IN POUNDS OR ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES DURING A CALAMITY, WHEN THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT RISK OF HARM TO ONESELF, SHALL CONSTITUTE NEGLIGENCE.

SECTION 10. A new Section 5-D is hereby added after Section 5-C of Republic Act No. 8485 to read as follows:

SECTION 5-D. REGULATION OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED FROM CONDUCTING ANY FORM OF ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION OR DISSECTION. ALL SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CONDUCTING RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS SHALL COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED HUMANE STANDARDS. ALL SUCH RESEARCH SHALL BE REVIEWED, APPROVED, AND MONITORED BY AN INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE INSTITUTION.

THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE, SHALL JOINTLY ISSUE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THEIR ACCREDITATION UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE PENALTIES PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT.

SECTION 11. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~[Section 8. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than two (2) years or a fine of not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) nor more than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or both at the discretion of the Court. If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the officer responsible therefor shall serve the imprisonment when imposed. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported after service of sentence without any further proceedings.]~~

SECTION 8. PENALTIES. ANY PERSON WHO SUBJECTS ANY ANIMAL TO CRUELTY, MALTREATMENT, OR NEGLIGENCE SHALL, UPON CONVICTION BY FINAL JUDGMENT, BE PUNISHED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATED SCALE:

1
2 **(A) CAUSING THE DEATH OF AN ANIMAL. IMPRISONMENT OF ONE (1)**
3 **YEAR AND SIX (6) MONTHS AND ONE (1) DAY TO THREE (3)**
4 **YEARS, AND A FINE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP**
5 **100,000.00) TO FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP**
6 **500,000.00).**

7
8 **(B) CAUSING GRAVE INJURY TO AN ANIMAL. IMPRISONMENT OF**
9 **ONE (1) YEAR AND ONE (1) DAY TO ONE (1) YEAR AND SIX (6)**
10 **MONTHS, AND A FINE OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP**
11 **50,000.00) TO EIGHTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 80,000.00), IF**
12 **THE ANIMAL SURVIVES BUT IS SEVERELY INJURED AND**
13 **REQUIRES HUMAN INTERVENTION TO SUSTAIN ITS LIFE; AND**

14
15 **(C) CAUSING INJURY NOT CLASSIFIED AS GRAVE. IMPRISONMENT**
16 **OF SIX (6) MONTHS TO ONE (1) YEAR AND A FINE NOT**
17 **EXCEEDING THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 30,000.00);**

18
19 **IN ALL CASES, THE OFFENDER SHALL PAY FOR THE VETERINARY**
20 **TREATMENT OF THE INJURED ANIMAL OR, IN THE CASE OF ANIMALS**
21 **KILLED PURSUANT TO SECTION 8 (A), THE COSTS SHALL INCLUDING**
22 **THOSE INCURRED IN THE HUMANE, PROPER AND SANITARY**
23 **DISPOSITION OR TREATMENT OF THE DECEASED ANIMAL. COSTS IN**
24 **BOTH CASES SHALL INCLUDE SHELTER COSTS INCURRED BY THE**
25 **OWNER, ANY ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP, OR THE ANIMAL CONTROL**
26 **FACILITY OR POUND. THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL**
27 **WELFARE SHALL PUBLISH A SCHEDULE OF REASONABLE COSTS,**
28 **WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE OF ACTUAL**
29 **COSTS INCURRED BY ANY PERSON, OFFICE, OR FACILITY IN THE**
30 **TREATMENT. THE OFFENDER SHALL SUFFER SUBSIDIARY**
31 **IMPRISONMENT IN CASE OF INSOLVENCY.**

32
33 **IF THE VIOLATION IS COMMITTED BY A JURIDICAL PERSON, THE**
34 **OFFICER DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE SHALL SUFFER THE MAXIMUM**
35 **PENALTY. IF IT IS COMMITTED BY AN ALIEN, THE OFFENDER SHALL**
36 **BE DEPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE WITHOUT**
37 **FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.**

38
39 **THE MAXIMUM APPLICABLE PENALTY SHALL BE IMPOSED**
40 **AUTOMATICALLY IF THE VIOLATION IS COMMITTED: (A) BY A**
41 **SYNDICATE, OR A GROUP OF THREE (3) OR MORE PERSONS LIABLE**
42 **FOR THE OFFENSES; (B) BY AN OFFENDER WHO DERIVES**
43 **COMMERCIAL GAIN FROM CRUELTY TO ANIMALS; (C) BY A PUBLIC**
44 **OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE; OR (D) WHERE AT LEAST THREE (3) ANIMALS**
45 **ARE INVOLVED.**

46
47 **SECTION 12.** A new Section 9-A is hereby added after Section 9 of Republic Act No.
48 8485, as amended, to read as follows:

SECTION 9-A. SPECIFIC PROHIBITIONS. THE FOLLOWING ACTS ARE EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED AND SHALL BE PENALIZED UNDER SECTION 8 OF THIS ACT:

- (A) **DOG-MEAT TRADE. THE SLAUGHTER, SALE, PURCHASE, TRANSPORT, OR TRADE OF DOGS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IS PROHIBITED;**
- (B) **ANIMAL CRUELTY CONTENT. THE PRODUCTION, REPRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, OR EXHIBITION OF ANY CONTENT DEPICTING THE INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF PAIN, SUFFERING, OR DEATH ON ANY ANIMAL FOR PURPOSES OF ENTERTAINMENT OR COMMERCIAL GAIN IS PROHIBITED; AND**
- (C) **ANIMAL FIGHTING. ALL FORMS OF ANIMAL FIGHTING, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO COCKFIGHTING, DOG FIGHTING, HORSE FIGHTING, AND BULLFIGHTING, ARE PROHIBITED AS INHERENTLY CRUEL AND EXPLOITATIVE.**
- (D) **ANIMAL POISONING. THE ADMINISTRATION, USE, DISTRIBUTION, OR APPLICATION OF POISON OR ANY TOXIC OR CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF KILLING ANIMALS IN PUBLIC SPACES OR COMMERCIAL AREAS IS PROHIBITED, EXCEPT WHEN EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY A SPECIAL PERMIT ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH).**

SECTION 13. A new Section 9-B is hereby added after Section 9-A of Republic Act No. 8485 to read as follows:

SECTION 9-B. MANDATORY ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION. — THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE (NCAW), SHALL INTEGRATE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT EDUCATION INTO THE BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL BE AGE-APPROPRIATE AND SHALL INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS:

- (A) **THE RECOGNITION OF ANIMALS AS SENTIENT BEINGS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TREATING ANIMALS HUMANELY AND WITH COMPASSION;**
- (B) **THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL WELFARE AND THE FIVE DOMAINS OF ANIMAL WELFARE;**

1
2 (C) THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ANIMAL OWNERS,
3 KEEPERS, HANDLERS AND CAREGIVERS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT
4 NO. 8485, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER APPLICABLE ANIMAL
5 WELFARE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS;

6
7 (D) RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL GUARDIANSHIP, INCLUDING PROPER
8 NUTRITION, SHELTER, VETERINARY CARE, VACCINATION,
9 IDENTIFICATION, HUMANE HANDLING, STERILIZATION AND
10 PREVENTION OF ABANDONMENT AND NEGLECT;

11
12 (E) THE RECOGNITION, PREVENTION AND REPORTING OF ANIMAL
13 CRUELTY, ABUSE, NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT;

14
15 (F) HUMANE AND RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF FREE-ROAMING
16 AND COMMUNITY ANIMALS, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPLES OF
17 TRAP-NEUTER-VACCINATE-RETURN (TNVR) AND OTHER
18 SCIENTIFICALLY SUPPORTED AND HUMANE POPULATION-
19 MANAGEMENT METHODS;

20
21 (G) RESPECT FOR WILDLIFE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING
22 ANIMALS AND THEIR HABITATS;

23
24 (H) THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANIMAL WELFARE, PUBLIC
25 HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, BIODIVERSITY AND
26 COMMUNITY WELL-BEING; AND

27
28 (I) SUCH OTHER ANIMAL WELFARE CONCEPTS AND COMPETENCIES
29 AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE NCAW IN CONSULTATION WITH
30 DEPED AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

31
32 CHED SHALL ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF
33 ANIMAL WELFARE ACT EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION
34 INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THROUGH RELEVANT COURSES,
35 COMMUNITY EXTENSION PROGRAMS, THE NATIONAL SERVICE
36 TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP), AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC
37 OR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

38
39 THE DEPED AND CHED, IN COORDINATION WITH THE NCAW, SHALL
40 DEVELOP APPROPRIATE LEARNING COMPETENCIES, TEACHING
41 MATERIALS AND TEACHER-TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE EFFECTIVE
42 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

43
44 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ESTABLISH
45 PARTNERSHIPS WITH ACCREDITED ANIMAL WELFARE
46 ORGANIZATIONS, ANIMAL SHELTERS, SANCTUARIES, VETERINARY
47 PROFESSIONALS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND OTHER
48 QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL,

1 **COMMUNITY-BASED AND EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITIES ON ANIMAL**
2 **WELFARE.**

3
4 **NO EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING ANIMALS SHALL CAUSE**
5 **UNNECESSARY PAIN, SUFFERING, DISTRESS, INJURY OR DEATH, AND**
6 **ALL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE USE, HANDLING, CARE OR STUDY OF**
7 **ANIMALS SHALL COMPLY WITH THIS ACT AND APPLICABLE ANIMAL**
8 **WELFARE STANDARDS.**

9
10 **THE NCAW, IN CONSULTATION WITH DEPED, CHED, RELEVANT**
11 **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ACCREDITED ANIMAL WELFARE**
12 **ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL PROMULGATE THE NECESSARY RULES AND**
13 **REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.**

14
15 **SECTION 14.** A new Section 9-C is hereby added after Section 9-B of Republic Act
16 No. 8485 to read as follows:

17
18 **SECTION 9-C. PRESUMPTION OF NEGLECT AND RIGHT OF RESCUE. PET**
19 **NEGLECT SHALL BE PRESUMED COMMITTED BY THE LEGAL OWNER OR**
20 **OCCUPANT OF THE PROPERTY WHERE AN ANIMAL IS FOUND IN A**
21 **STATE OF NEGLECT.**

22
23 **BARANGAY OFFICIALS, LANDLORDS, NEIGHBORS, AND RELATIVES OF**
24 **THE OWNER OR OCCUPANT WITH KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH NEGLECT**
25 **SHALL HAVE THE DUTY TO REPORT THE INCIDENT TO THE NATIONAL**
26 **COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE OR THE LOCAL ANIMAL WELFARE**
27 **OFFICE AND TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY CARE TO THE**
28 **ANIMAL, INCLUDING FOOD, WATER, AND TEMPORARY SHELTER.**

29
30 **THE BREAKING OF LOCKS OR ENTRY INTO PREMISES FOR THE**
31 **PURPOSE OF RESCUING A NEGLECTED ANIMAL SHALL NOT**
32 **CONSTITUTE ANY CRIME. SUCH ACTS SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE**
33 **PRINCIPLE OF *NEGOTIORUM GESTIO* UNDER THE CIVIL CODE OF THE**
34 **PHILIPPINES, RECOGNIZING THE LAWFUL INTERVENTION OF A**
35 **PERSON ACTING TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF AN ANIMAL IN**
36 **DISTRESS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE NEGLECTED ANIMAL WILL BE**
37 **CONSIDERED PROPERTY OF THE OWNER OR OCCUPANT OF THE**
38 **PROPERTY WHERE IT IS FOUND.**

39
40 **SECTION 15.** A new Section 9-D is hereby added after Section 9-C of Republic Act
41 No. 8485 to read as follows:

42
43 **SECTION 9-D. ANIMAL WELFARE PARTNERS. THE NATIONAL**
44 **COMMISSION ON ANIMAL WELFARE SHALL MAINTAIN A REGISTRY OF**
45 **ANIMAL WELFARE PARTNERS. THE ANIMAL WELFARE PARTNERS MAY**
46 **BE DEPUTIZED TO ASSIST IN ANIMAL RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND**
47 **ENFORCEMENT, OPERATE ANIMAL SHELTERS AND SANCTUARIES**
48 **SUBJECT TO NATIONAL STANDARDS AND INSPECTION, AND ENGAGE**

1 **IN PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH.**

2
3 **ALL PARTNERSHIPS SHALL BE GOVERNED BY MEMORANDA OF**
4 **AGREEMENT DEFINING THE ROLES, SCOPE, ACCOUNTABILITY**
5 **MEASURES, AND RESOURCE-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE**
6 **PARTIES.**
7

8 **SECTION 16. *Construction.*** - This Act shall be liberally construed for the purpose
9 of promoting, enhancing, and protecting the rights of all animals recognized herein.
10

11 **SECTION 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Department of
12 Agriculture, the Bureau of Animal Industry, and at least two (2) accredited animal
13 welfare nongovernment organizations, and other relevant government agencies shall
14 promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within
15 ninety (90) days after its effectivity.
16

17 **SECTION 18. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared
18 unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining
19 provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
20

21 **SECTION 19. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, department
22 or memorandum orders, and other administrative issuances or parts thereof
23 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, superseded, or
24 repealed accordingly.
25

26 **SECTION 20. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication
27 in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,