

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 JUL 11 P3 :48

SENATE

S. No. 240

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND RECYCLING FOOD
WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The problem of food security and food waste in the country is evidently rising. The practice of "*pagpag*" or recooked food that was recovered from garbage is widespread in Filipino households who cannot afford three square meals daily.

In a recent Social Weather Station survey, approximately 3.1 million Filipinos or 12.2% of the country's total population experience hunger during the first quarter of 2022. According to the data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, they have recorded the highest number of deaths due to malnutrition from January to October 2021, with a total death of 4,844 Filipinos. In addition, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rapid Nutrition Assessment Survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute data stated that 62.1% of Filipino households experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2020.

According to the UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2021, each household in the country wastes around 9,334,477 tons of food annually. The current data on food waste could at least feed the 3.1 million hungry Filipinos per year.

Our country is rich in resources of food, yet millions of Filipinos cannot afford three meals a day. The excess edible supply of food must be highlighted and utilized in order to feed the millions of hungry Filipinos. This would help alleviate not only the problem of food security but also food waste.

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



LOREN LEGARDA

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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND RECYCLING FOOD
WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY**

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 “Zero Food Waste Act of
2 2022.”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes that each person has a right
4 to an adequate standard of living, including sufficient food. It is hereby declared a
5 policy of the State to safeguard food security, end hunger, and promote the efficient
6 use of the country’s food resources.

7 Towards this end, the State shall adopt a system to promote, facilitate, and ensure
8 the reduction of food waste through redistribution and recycling. The massive amount
9 of food wasted and the considerable number of people going hungry daily is a breach
10 that this Act intends to correct.

11 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

12 a. *Food insecure* – persons or groups of persons who have difficulty
13 producing or purchasing food to avoid hunger

14 b. *Edible food waste* – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages,
15 determined to be fit for consumption based on standards set by the
16 National Nutrition Council

17 c. *Food waste reduction* – the decrease of food waste generation, the
18 redistribution of food waste to the food insecure or the recycling of food
19 as fertilizer or compost

- 1 d. *Food-related businesses* – public and private businesses involved in the
2 manufacturing and processing of food products (i.e. food
3 manufacturers), private businesses involved in the wholesaling and
4 retailing of food products (i.e. restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels)
- 5 e. *Food banks* – non-profit, charitable or other social mission-driven
6 organizations that distribute food to the food insecure
- 7 f. *Inedible food waste* – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages,
8 determined to be unfit for consumption based on standards set by the
9 National Nutrition Council
- 10 g. *Waste management and recycling enterprises* – organizations that manage
11 inedible food waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

12 Sec. 4. *National Zero Food Waste Campaign.* – The National Nutrition Council
13 (NCC), in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural
14 Resources (DENR), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the
15 Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the
16 Department of Health (DOH), other concerned agencies and Local Government Units
17 (LGUs), is hereby tasked to undertake a National Zero Food Waste Campaign to raise
18 awareness about the Zero Food Waste Act, the consequences of wasted food, and the
19 food waste reduction efforts required of food-related business and households
20 through the LGUs. The Campaign shall also promote the food waste reduction
21 hierarchy and recommend means of reducing individual food waste.

22 DepEd shall have the duty to ensure that the education curriculum includes
23 materials on the current global and national food waste situation, ways to reduce food
24 waste, national and local food waste prevention programs, and the provisions of this
25 Act. DTI shall encourage food-related businesses to purchase lower-price, non-
26 standard size or shape produce to be used in their food products.

27
28 Sec. 5. *Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy.* – Food-related businesses
29 such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels are
30 hereby required to:

- 31 a. Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on
32 the amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the past

1 year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including
2 donation, composting or discarding.

- 3 b. Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on
4 the amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the
5 immediate precedent year, organized according to the manner of
6 disposal, including donation, composting or discarding.
- 7 c. Enter into a contract with food banks to redistribute edible food waste
8 to the food insecure.
- 9 d. Shoulder the costs of transporting edible food waste from the business
10 location to the food bank's warehouse or distribution center.
- 11 e. Ensure that edible food waste is unadulterated and in good condition
12 upon arrival at the food bank's distribution center.
- 13 f. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises
14 to recycle inedible food waste into fertilizer or compost.
- 15 g. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection
16 areas to waste management sites.
- 17 h. Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.

18 *Sec. 6. National Zero Food Waste Scheme.* – DSWD, as the coordinating agency
19 between the food businesses and food banks, shall:

- 20 a. Provide guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and
21 distribution of edible food donated to food banks.
- 22 b. Ensure that the food businesses have entered into contracts with food
23 banks and issue acceptance certificates to food businesses.
- 24 c. Promote linkages between food banks and LGUs to create a community-
25 based food distribution system for the food insecure.
- 26 d. Create a Self-Sufficiency Program that will provide the food insecure
27 with skills training on managing food banks and livelihood programs to
28 avoid the dependence on donations solely.

29 *Sec. 7. Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.* – LGUs
30 are hereby required to:

- 1 a. Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of
2 inedible food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or
3 compost to DENR.
- 4 b. Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of
5 inedible food waste that has been recycled as raw material for fertilizers
6 or compost to DENR.
- 7 c. Initiate waste segregation efforts per household through local
8 campaigns.
- 9 d. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises
10 to recycle inedible food waste from households into fertilizer or
11 compost.
- 12 e. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection
13 areas to waste management sites.
- 14 f. Reach and maintain inedible food waste levels at the target set by DENR.

15 *Sec. 8. Penal Provisions/Penalties.* – The penalty of *prison correccional* will be
16 imposed on any individual, private or public, who deliberately makes food waste
17 unfit for consumption. The same penalty is applicable to private or public actors who
18 prevent the redirection of edible food waste to food banks or inedible food waste to
19 waste management and recycling enterprises.

20 *Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
21 effectivity of this Act, the National Nutrition Council, in coordination with the
22 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of
23 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Education (DepEd),
24 the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH), and
25 other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
26 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

27
28 *Sec. 10. Periodic Review.* – The implementing agencies shall submit an annual
29 report to Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

30 *Sec. 11. Appropriations.* – The funds needed to implement this Act shall be
31 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.* – Should any part or provision of this Act be
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not otherwise
3 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

4 Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
5 regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,
6 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7 Sec. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon publication in the Official
8 Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,