

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

23 JAN 19 P5:36

SENATE
S.B. No. 1718

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.8172 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "AN ACT
FOR SALT IODIZATION NATIONWIDE (ASIN),"
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 19 of the 1987 Constitution states that "*The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos.*"

Republic Act No. 8172 or "An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide" (ASIN Law) became a law in 1995. The law seeks to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders by mandating all salt producers and manufacturers to iodize their product. However, the law had the unintended effect of killing the local salt industry, as small and medium salt farmers were unable to comply with the iodization requirements.

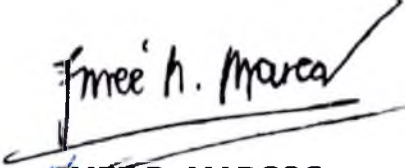
Before the passage of the ASIN Law, local producers supply 85% of the country's salt requirement, with Bulacan, Cavite, Pangasinan, and Mindoro are the biggest salt production centers. According to industry insiders, salt importation started to increase sharply in 1998, when El Nino hit the Philippines, followed by La Nina in 1999, 2000, 2001. This importation is enabled by the ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1994. In 2020, the Philippines salt imports reached 93% of the total supply. Total salt import is expected to increase due to the passage of Republic Act No. 1024, or the "Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act," which creates an additional demand of at least 300,000 metric tons of salt per year to supply coconut trees with adequate fertilizers. The total requirement of salt to fertilize coconut trees is expected to reach 850,000 metric tons.

This importation can be prevented if the Philippines can use its inherent natural advantages. The country has the 5th longest shoreline of any country in the world, with 36,000 kilometers. The requirement for iodization is a significant barrier for salt

producers to access both market and government funding. According to the Department of Agriculture, BFAR still hasn't been able to use the PHP 100 million budget of the government in 2021 to strengthen salt production. As such, there is a need to remove the iodization requirement for local salt producers to allow them access to both the market and for government assistance.

This bill seeks to remove the requirement for iodization for local salt producers. Local salt producers will now be able to access assistance provided under the ASIN Law without the requirement for iodization, giving the industry much needed technology transfer, capital, and support services.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS



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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8172 otherwise known as the "An
2 Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)" shall be amended to read as follows:

3
4 "SEC. 3. Purposes. — The purposes of this Act are to:

5
6 a) contribute to the elimination of micronutrient malnutrition in the
7 country, particularly iodine deficiency disorders, through the cost-
8 effective preventive measure of salt iodization;

9
10 b) ~~require~~ **ENCOURAGE** all producers manufacturers of food-grade
11 salt to iodize the salt that they produce, manufacture, import, trade or
12 distribute;

13
14 c) ~~require the Department of Health (DOH) to undertake the~~
15 ~~salt iodization program and for its Bureau of Food and Drugs~~

1 ~~(BFAD), to set and enforce standards for food-grade iodized~~
2 ~~salt and to monitor compliance thereof by the food-grade salt~~
3 ~~manufacturers;~~

4
5 d) require the local government units (LGUs), through their health
6 officers and nutritionists/dietitians, or in their absence through their
7 sanitary inspectors, to check and monitor the quality of food-grade salt
8 being sold in their market ~~in order to ascertain that such salt is~~
9 ~~properly iodized:~~

10
11 e) require the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to regulate and
12 monitor trading of iodized salt **AND ALL OTHER VARIANTS OF**
13 **SALT:**

14
15 f) direct the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in
16 collaboration with the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center
17 (TLRC), to initiate, promote, and cause the transfer of technology for
18 salt ~~iodization~~ **MANUFACTURING:**

19
20 g) authorize the National Nutrition Council (NNC), the policy-making
21 and coordinating body on nutrition, to serve as the advisory board on
22 salt iodization:

23
24 h) provide mechanisms and incentives for the local salt industry in the
25 production, marketing and distribution of iodized salt **AND ANY**
26 **OTHER VARIANTS OF SALT LOCALLY SOURCED AND**
27 **MANUFACTURED,** and

28
29 i) ensure the sustainability of the salt iodization program.”

1
2 **SEC. 2.** Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8172 otherwise known as the "An Act for
3 Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)" shall be amended to read as follows:

4
5 "SEC. 5. Applicability. — (a) This Act shall apply to the entire salt
6 industry, including salt producers/manufacturers, importers, traders,
7 and distributors as well as government and non-government agencies
8 involved in salt iodization activities.

9
10 (b) Iodized salt that conforms to the standards set by the BFAD to meet
11 national nutritional needs shall be made available to consumers
12 Provided, That the implementation of this Act shall be enforced over a
13 staggered period of one (1) year for large and medium producers
14 manufacturers, two (2) years for small producers/manufacturers; and
15 five (5) years for subsistence producers/ manufacturers.

16
17 (c) All food outlets, restaurants, and stores are hereby required to make
18 available to customers **only** iodized salt in their establishment upon
19 effectivity of this Act. These establishments shall be monitored with the
20 help of the LGIs through its health officers and nutritionists/dietitians,
21 or in their absence, the sanitary inspectors to check and monitor the
22 quality of food-grade salt being sold or served in such establishments.

23
24 (d) In areas endemic to iodine deficiency disorders, iodized salt **AND**
25 **OTHER VARIANTS OF SALT** shall be made available Local
26 government officials at the provincial and municipal levels shall provide
27 mechanisms to ensure enforcement of this provision through
28 ordinances and public information campaigns.

1 (e) All food manufacturers processors using food-grade salt are also
2 ~~required~~ **RECOMMENDED** to use iodized salt in the processing of
3 their products and must comply with the provisions of this Act not later
4 than one (1) year from its effectivity. Provided, That the use of iodized
5 salt shall not prejudice the quality and safety of their food products:
6 Provided, however, That the burden of proof and testing for any
7 prejudicial effects due to iodized salt fortification lies on the said food
8 manufacturers/processor.

9
10 (f) Salt producers/manufacturers shall register with the BFAD, which
11 shall maintain updated registry of salt producers/manufacturers ~~and~~
12 ~~shall monitor compliance with the salt iodization program.~~

13
14 (g) All food-grade salt shall be labeled in a manner that is true and
15 accurate, not likely to mislead purchasers and in accordance with the
16 requirements prescribed by the BFAD.

17
18 (h) For a period of three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, the
19 DOH shall provide free iodized salt to indigents residing in sixth class
20 municipalities as may be allowed by their annual appropriations.”

21
22 **SEC. 3.** Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8172 otherwise known as the “An Act for
23 Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)” shall be amended to read as follows:

24 “SEC. 6. Support to the Salt Industry. — The following agencies and
25 institutions shall support the salt iodization program through their
26 respective internal programs.

27
28 a) the DTI is hereby required to assist and support local salt
29 producers/manufacturers in upgrading their production technologies to

1 include iodization by helping them obtain soft loans and financial
2 assistance for the procurement of salt **iodization** machines
3 **MANUFACTURING**, packaging equipment and technology and
4 fortificant, **AS NECESSARY**, and by ensuring the systematic
5 distribution of ~~the iodized~~ salt in the market.

6
7 b) the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) shall assist the
8 formation of cooperatives of local salt producers/manufacturers in order
9 that they can economically engage in salt **iodization** and distribution
10 of **iodized** salt:

11
12 c) the DOST in collaboration with the TLRC, shall develop and
13 implement comprehensive programs for the acquisition of design and
14 manufacture of salt **iodization** machines and transfer of salt
15 **iodization MANUFACTURING** technology to small and subsistence
16 local salt producers/manufacturers; and

17
18 d) the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
19 (DENR) and other appropriate government agencies shall identify areas
20 that are suitable for use as salt farms with the purpose of protecting
21 such areas from environmental risks to ensure sustainability of **iodized**
22 salt production.”

23
24 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
25 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
26 repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
3 remain in force and effect.

4 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
5 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
6 general circulation in the Philippines.

7

Approved,