

TENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

'95 AUG 23 P6:16

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: PH

S. No. 1122

Introduced by Senators Mercado, Sotto and Webb, *and Romulo* 

AN ACT
PROMOTING NATIONAL SALT IODIZATION AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as "An Act For Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the health of the people, to maintain an effective food regulatory system, and to provide women and children with proper nutrition. For this purpose, it shall promote the nutritional fortification of food, particularly salt iodization, as a priority for the nation.

SEC. 3. *Purposes.* -

- a) To combat micronutrient malnutrition, particularly iodine deficiency, through the cost-effective preventive measure of salt iodization;
- b) To mandate all commercial producers, manufacturers, importers, traders, and distributors of salt to iodize the salt that they produce, manufacture, import, trade or distribute;
- c) To mandate the Department of Health to lead the implementation of the salt iodization program; and its Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to set and enforce standards for the iodization of salt and to monitor compliance of the salt producers, manufacturers, importers, traders, and distributors;
- d) To mandate the local government units through its sanitary inspectors to monitor the quality of iodized salt being sold in the market.
- e) To mandate the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to monitor the trade of iodized salt in the market;

f) To mandate the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Technology and Resource Livelihood Center (TLRC) to initiate and maintain the transfer of technology for salt iodization;

g) To provide mechanisms and incentives for the local salt industry in the production, marketing and distribution of iodized salt.; and

h) To ensure the sustainability of salt iodization program.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. -

a) Micronutrient malnutrition - A disorder resulting from deficiencies in vitamin A, iron, iodine and other micronutrients which the body needs in minute quantities everyday.

b) Iodine deficiency disorders - A broad spectrum of deficiencies resulting from the lack of iodine in the diet which may manifest as goiter, mental retardation, physical and mental defects, and cretinism. It may also result from the intake of goitrogenic substances.

c) Food fortification - The addition of nutrients to processed food at levels above the natural state.

d) Salt iodization - The addition of iodine to salt intended for human or animal consumption in accordance with government specifications as to form, **fortificant**, method, manner and composition as may be prescribed by the BFAD.

e) Food-grade salt - Salt intended for human and animal consumption, excluding those used for industrial purposes.

f) Subsistence producer - a producer/farmer whose total salt production does not exceed ten (10) metric tons of salt per year.

g) Small producer - a producer/farmer whose total salt production ranges from eleven (11) to three hundred (300) metric tons per year.

h) Medium producer - a producer/farmer whose total salt production ranges from three hundred-one (301) to two thousand (2000) metric tons per year.

i) Large producer - a producer/farmer whose total salt production is more than two thousand (2000) metric tons per year.

j) Regulatory requirements - The provisions of all applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, and other enactments relating to food quality and safety, purity, nutritional composition, and any other aspect of food regulation or control.

SEC. 5. Applicability and Exemptions. -

a) This Act shall apply to the entire salt industry, including salt producers, traders, importers and retailers, as well as government and non-government agencies involved in salt iodization activities.

b) By no later than two (2) years from the approval of this Act, all food grade salt, whether locally produced or imported, shall be iodized with appropriate levels of iodine in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

c) All producers, importers and retailers of food grade salt shall make available only iodized salt that conforms to the standards set by BFAD to meet nutritional needs. Provided, however, that the implementation of this Act shall be enforced over a staggered period for large, medium and small salt producers who must comply with all the provisions of this Act within one year, three years and five years, respectively, from the approval of this Act. Provided, further, that the subsistence salt producers shall be exempted from the implementation of this Act.

d) All food outlets, restaurants and stores are hereby mandated to make available to customers only iodized salt in their retail establishments. These establishments shall be monitored with the help of the local government units through its sanitary inspectors.

e) All food manufacturers/processors using food grade salt are also mandated to use iodized salt in the processing of their products. Provided, however, that the use of iodized salt shall not prejudice the quality and safety of their food products. Provided, further, that the burden of proof and testing for any prejudicial effects due to iodized salt fortification lies on the said manufacturer/processor.

f) Salt manufacturers participating in the salt iodization program shall register with the BFAD, which shall maintain an updated registry of salt manufacturers and shall monitor compliance with the salt iodization program.

SEC. 6. *Support to the Salt Industry.* -

a) The DTI is mandated to assist local producers of salt in the countryside to upgrade their salt production technology to include iodization by helping them obtain soft loans and financial assistance in the procurement of salt iodization machines, packaging equipment and fortificant; and by ensuring the systematic distribution of iodized salt in the market. The DTI, in cooperation with the Cooperative Development Authority, shall facilitate the formation of cooperatives of local salt producers which shall serve as conduits for beneficiaries of financial assistance from the Government. These measures will assist the local salt producers to economically engage in salt iodization and distribution of iodized salt.

b) The DOST, in collaboration with the TLRC, shall develop and implement comprehensive programs for the acquisition, design and manufacture of salt iodization machines and transfer of salt iodization technology to the salt industry, including small local salt producers.

SEC. 7. *Information and Education Campaign on Iodized Salt.* - The benefits and rationale of the use of iodized salt shall be promoted through an organized, systematic and nationwide information campaign to be spearheaded by the Department of Health in cooperation and coordination with local government units and other agencies concerned. Furthermore, such shall be included and given emphasis in health subjects of schools, both private and public, at all levels.

SEC. 8. *The Salt Iodization Advisory Board.* -

The National Nutrition Council, which is presently composed of the Secretaries or their duly authorized representatives) of the Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture, and a representative of NGOs, reinforced by a representative of the salt industry, shall serve as the Salt Iodization Advisory Board and function as the over-all coordinating body on salt iodization programs and activities. It shall coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the program and shall periodically submit a report to the implementing agency.

SEC. 9. *Sanctions.* - Any person, whether natural or juridical, who violates any of the provisions of this Act or any of the rules and regulations promulgated for its effective implementation shall be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand pesos (P1,000) nor more than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000); *Provided*, that if the violation is committed by a business entity, its managing officer shall be liable for the fine; *Provided further*, that such offender shall suffer a revocation of its business permit or a ban of its product from the market.

The procedures for imposing sanctions under this Act and for inspecting and investigating the premises where any salt is received, held, manufactured, labelled, stored, displayed, delivered, distributed, sold or located, shall be in accordance with the RA 3720, otherwise known as the Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* -The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DOH, DTI, DOST, DA and DECS, as may be appropriate, under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its implementation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Health, in coordination with the agencies concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty days from its approval.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the official gazette or in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,