

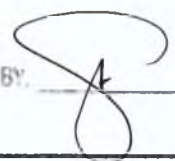
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



23 JAN 30 A10 :56

**SENATE**

S. No. 1794

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food Waste Index Report 2021, one-third or about 1.3 billion tons of food produced in the world "gets lost or wasted" annually. This global problem of food wastage continues to worsen while more people experience starvation globally.

As reported by Action Against Hunger, world hunger is on the rise after a decade-long steady decline. It reported that from 2019 to 2022, the prevalence of undernourishment among people grew by more than 150 million, which was exacerbated by many factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflict, and climate change.

In the Philippines, the hunger rate has hardly moved. In the recent survey released by Social Weather System (SWS) covering the 2nd quarter to 3rd quarter of 2022, it was revealed that 11.3% or around 2.9 families experienced having nothing to eat at least once in the past three months.

Hence, this bill seeks to address both the problems of increasing food wastage and hunger. Government agencies led by the National Nutrition Council shall be tasked

to undertake a National Zero Food Waste Campaign to educate the public on the repercussions of food wastage and on their role to avoid it. The bill also mandates food-related businesses such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels to conduct food waste reduction strategies. Further, local government units are also required to take effort to address food wastage in the country.

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




**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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*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."

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

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

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

12 a. Food insecure - persons or groups who have difficulty producing or  
13 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 National  
16 Nutrition Council.

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

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

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

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

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

20 *Sec. 6. National Zero Food Waste Scheme.* - DSWD, as the coordinating  
21 agency between the food business and food banks, shall:

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

31 *Sec. 7. Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.* -  
32 LGUs are hereby required to:



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

13 *Sec. 8. Tax Incentive* - Food related businesses that donate edible food to food  
14 banks shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as an  
15 allowable deduction from their gross income, in accordance with the provisions of the  
16 National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended.

17 *Sec. 9. Penal Provisions/Penalties*. - The penalty of *prision correccional* will be  
18 imposed on any individual, private or public, who deliberately makes food waste unfit  
19 for consumption. The same penalty is applicable to private or public actors who  
20 prevent the redirection of edible food waste to food banks or inedible food waste to  
21 waste management and recycling enterprises.

22 *Sec. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*. - Within sixty (60) days  
23 from the effectivity of this Act, the NNC, in coordination with the DSWD, DENR, DepEd,  
24 DTI, DOH, and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary  
25 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

26 *Sec. 11. Periodic Review*. -The implementing agencies shall submit an annual  
27 report to Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

28 *Sec. 12. Appropriations*. - The funds needed to implement this Act shall be  
29 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

30 *Sec. 13. Separability Clause*. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
31 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain  
32 in full force and effect.

1            *Sec. 14. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or  
2 other issuances or parts Inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4            *Sec. 15. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication either in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general  
6 circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*