

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4336**



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Introduced by **Hon. Sol Aragones**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rice is the staple food of the Filipinos. The demand for rice is such that despite being an agricultural country, the Philippines still has to import, on average, an additional one million metric tons of rice per year to satisfy local consumption. As a result, the country is the world's biggest rice importer, bringing in the staple food from Asian neighbors such as Thailand and Vietnam.

It is therefore no surprise that with an average per capital rice consumption of 123 kg per person annually, Filipinos spend more on rice than any other food, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS). Given how important this food staple is to our countrymen, it is ironic that, based on data from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), each Filipino wastes an average of three tablespoons or nine grams of rice daily. While at first glance this may seem minuscule, with a population of one hundred million people, nine grams of rice wasted per day amounts to 900,000 kilos thrown away per day, or 328 million kilos a year. This is a staggering figure, as this amount of wasted rice is equal to the annual rice consumption of roughly 2.6 million Filipinos.

In a country where millions do not eat three square meals a day, and millions more are undernourished, this kind of wastage cannot be countenanced.

This bill seeks to penalize restaurants, hotels, inns, canteens, steakhouses, and eateries that insist on serving and charging for a full cup of rice even when customers order less than one cup of rice. It also makes the serving of one-half cup as the mandatory quantity for

additional orders of rice in food establishments offering "unlimited rice" for meals bought therein. This measure will considerably reduce rice wastage by these business establishments, as it will allow their customers to order only the amount of rice they can consume.

Some have dismissed such measures as trivial and unnecessary; we submit that there is nothing trivial about food gone to waste, and that in a country still plagued by want, we need to take steps to ensure that precious resources such as rice are not taken for granted.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
**HON. SOL ARAGONES**  
Representative, Third District of Laguna

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**AN ACT**

**PENALIZING THE PRACTICE OF RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, INNS, CANTEENS,  
STEAKHOUSES, EATERIES AND THE LIKE FROM REFUSING TO SERVE  
ORDER OF RICE FROM A CUSTOMER IF IT BE LESS THAN ONE (1) CUP, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Anti-Rice Wastage Act of 2016.*"

SECTION 2. *Prescribed Acts.* – It is hereby declared mandatory for all restaurants, hotels, inns, canteens, steakhouses, eateries and similar food establishments serving rice to include in their menu of dishes one-half (1/2) cup of rice and its corresponding price.

All restaurants, hotels, inns, canteens, steakhouses, eateries and similar food establishments offering unlimited rice, which entails no cost for additional rice servings, are hereby mandated to serve additional orders of rice in one-half cup quantities.

SECTION 3. *Prohibited Act.* – It is hereby declared unlawful for restaurants, hotels, inns, canteens, steakhouses, eateries and similar food establishments to refuse to serve order of rice from a customer if it be less than one (1) cup.

SECTION 4. *Penal Provisions.* – Any act or omission by a restaurant, hotel, inn, canteen, steakhouse, eatery or similar food establishment in violation of the foregoing provisions of this Act shall be meted the following penalties:

- 1 a) a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00) for the first offense;  
2 b) a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) for the second offense; and  
3 c) a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) for the third and  
4 subsequent offenses.

5 SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Trade and  
6 Industry (DTI) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

7 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations  
8 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
9 accordingly.

10 SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
11 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,