



Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2186



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Introduced by  
**REPRESENTATIVE LOREN B. LEGARDA**

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**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 the Filipino households who cannot afford three square meals daily. In a recent Social Weather Station Survey, 19 million Filipinos or 19% of the country's total population experiences hunger and 10 million of which are experiencing severe hunger. The current chronic malnutrition rate among Filipino children aged 0 to 2 is at 26.2% which is highest in ten years, according to a recent study by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

In a survey by the FNRI in 2015, 43 grams of rice daily for each Filipino household. At 22.975 million Filipino households, according to the latest PSA data, the country wastes around 987,952 kg of rice daily. With the current data of rice waste, it could at least feed 4.3 million Filipinos per year.

Our country is rich in resources of food, yet 13 million Filipinos cannot afford 3 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 in food security but also in food waste.

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



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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  
2       Act.”

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

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

12  
13      SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms  
14      shall mean:

- a. Food insecure – persons or groups of persons who have difficulty producing or purchasing food to avoid hunger.
- b. Edible food waste – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be fit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council.
- c. Food waste reduction – the decrease of food waste generation, the redistribution of food waste to the food insecure or the recycling of food as fertilizer or compost.
- d. Food-related businesses – public and private businesses involved in the manufacturing and processing of food products (i.e. food manufacturers), private businesses involved in the wholesaling and retailing of food products (i.e. restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels).
- e. Food banks – non-profit, charitable or other social mission-driven organization that distribute food to the food insecure.
- f. Inedible food waste – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be unfit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council.
- g. Waste management and recycling enterprises – organizations that manage inedible food waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

SECTION 4. *National Zero Food Waste Campaign.* – The National Nutrition Council (NCC), in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH),



1 other concerned agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs), is hereby  
2 tasked to undertake a National Zero Food Waste Campaign to raise  
3 awareness about the consequences of wasted food, the Zero Food Waste  
4 Act, and the food waste reduction efforts required of food-related business  
5 and households through the LGUs. The Campaign shall also promote the  
6 food waste reduction hierarchy, and recommend means of reducing individual  
7 food waste.

8 Dep Ed shall have the duty to ensure that the education curriculum includes  
9 materials on the current global and national food waste situation, on ways to  
10 reduce food waste, on national and local food waste prevention programs,  
11 and regarding the provisions of this Act. DTI shall encourage food-related  
12 business to purchase lower-price, non-standard size or shape produce to be  
13 used in their food products.

14  
15 SECTION 5. *Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy.* – Food-  
16 related businesses such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants,  
17 cafeterias, and hotels are hereby required to:

- 18 a. Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on  
19 the amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the past  
20 year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including  
21 donation, composting or discarding.
- 22 b. Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on  
23 the amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the  
24 immediate precedent year, organized according to the manner of  
25 disposal, including donation, composting or discarding.

- c. Enter into a contract with food banks to redistribute edible food waste to the food insecure.
- d. Shoulder the costs of transporting edible food waste from business location to the food bank's warehouse or distribution center.
- e. Ensure that edible food waste is unadulterated and in good condition upon arrival at the food bank's distribution center.
- f. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle inedible food waste into fertilizer or compost.
- g. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to waste management sites.
- h. Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Nutrition Council, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department



1 of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the  
2 Department of Health (DOH), and other relevant government agencies, shall  
3 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
4 implementation of this Act.

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6 SECTION 10. *Periodic Review.* – The implementing agencies shall submit an  
7 annual report to Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

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9 SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed to implement this Act shall  
10 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

11  
12 SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – Should any part or provision of this Act  
13 be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not  
14 otherwise affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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16 SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decreed, executive orders, rules,  
17 and regulation or any part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions  
18 of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

22  
23 Approved,