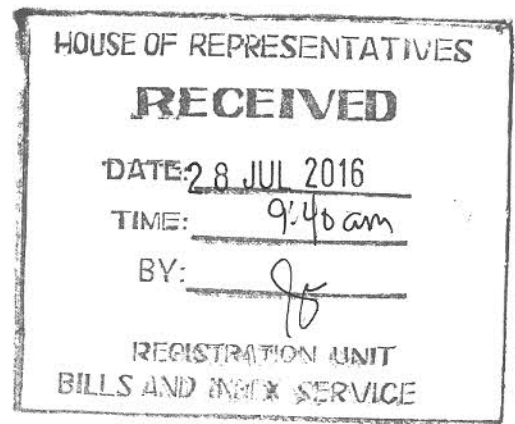


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2115**



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Introduced by REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA  
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

"Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) have found that eating five or more servings of white rice per week was associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes. In contrast, eating two or more servings of brown rice per week was associated with a lower risk of the disease. The researchers estimated that replacing 50 grams of white rice just one third of a typical daily serving) with the same amount of brown rice would lower risk of type 2 diabetes by 16%."<sup>1</sup>

In 2012<sup>2</sup> Filipinos aged 20 to 79 accounted for 4,321,460 diabetes cases; 2,539,290 people with undiagnosed diabetes; and 60,477 diabetes-related deaths; while the mean diabetes-related expenditure for the year was US\$109.18 per person with diabetes.

This bill seeks to make consumers aware of the benefits of and develop a taste for brown rice by mandating, for a promotional period of one (1) calendar month, that it be made available as an alternative to white rice wherever rice is sold for consumption. Recognizing that food (from restaurants to caterers to street vendors) and retail (from dealers to markets to corner stores) establishments are in the best position to come up with creative, innovative, and compelling ways to market brown rice that will effectively influence rice consumption habits, this bill seeks to provide an incentive to participating establishments by exempting them from paying the various local business taxes, fees, and/or charges for the following year.

This bill was filed during the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress. However, no further action was taken on it due to time constraints. This bill is filed for the consideration of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.

  
REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

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<sup>1</sup> "White Rice, Brown Rice, and Risk of Type 2 Diabetes in US Men and Women," Qi Sun, Donna Spiegelman, Rob

<sup>2</sup> M. van Dam, Michelle D. Holmes, Vasanti S. Malik, Walter C. Willett, Frank B. Hu, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, online June 14, 2010 .

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CONSUMPTION OF BROWN RICE  
THROUGH FOOD AND RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO  
WHITE RICE

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This act shall be known and cited as the "Brown Rice Act".

SECTION 2. *Promotion Period.* - All persons, whether natural or juridical, who provide rice in the regular course of business shall make brown rice available as an alternative to white rice to all customers for the seventh (7th) calendar month from the effectivity of this act.

SECTION 3. *Incentives.* - All participating establishments shall be exempt from all local government taxes, fees, and/or charges mentioned in Sections 141(a), 141(b), 143(a), 143(b), 143(c), 143(d), 143(g), 143(h), 147, 152(a), 152(c), and 155 of Republic Act No. 7160, the Local Government Code of 1991, for the year following the eighth (8th) calendar month from the effectivity of this act.

SECTION 4. *Certification.* - Participating establishments shall register with the Bureau of Local Government Finance before the start of the promotion period, submitting proof of purchase of brown rice. Within thirty (30) days after the completion of the promotion period, participating establishments shall submit proof of sale of brown rice to the Bureau of Local Government Finance. The Bureau of Local Government Finance shall certify compliance with this section which shall be presented when claiming the exemption.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Bureau of Local Government Finance shall issue, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this act, implementing rules and regulations in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Trade and Industry.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - Any portion or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other portions and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* -All laws and administrative issuances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any national paper of general circulation.

Approved,