

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

House Bill No. 1850



EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 10, Article XIV of the Constitution states that science and technology are essential for national development and progress. State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation and their utilization.

Swine production in the Philippines consists of 70 percent backyard-raising and 30 percent in commercial operations. Last year, about 30 percent of the country's backyard swine farms were wiped out and more than 20 percent of commercial farms were adversely affected by swine diseases, including a strain of the porcine reproduction and respiratory syndrome. About 60,000 out of the 300,000 sows in Central Luzon had died due to diseases. The problem is we have no proper diagnostic laboratory to identify the disease strains that hit local hogs so we do not know what vaccine we should administer. The industry up to now didn't know what particular strains hit their farms. It is for this reason that there is a need for a state-of-the art diagnostic lab that can properly identify these diseases.

This bill seeks for the establishment of a diagnostic laboratory to diagnose the diseases that hit local hogs. Further, such laboratory shall also maintain surveillance and shall monitor the diseases to determine their possible transmission to humans as well as other animals. The early detection of the diseases is critical to control the diseases, to avoid their transmission to humans and to limit the economic losses of the country. Further, the establishment of a diagnostic laboratory is essential to ensure a nutritious and disease-free source of animal food products for consumers. Furthermore, it is also important to note that consumer prices are affected by the health and disease status of hog production.

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

  
RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TO IDENTIFY THE DISEASES  
AFFECTING LOCAL HOGS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**Section 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the state to develop and support the livestock industry in the country. It is concerned in protecting the industry from diseases that adversely affect it. The early detection of the diseases that affect the local hog industry is critical to control the diseases to prevent death of the hogs and to limit the economic losses of the country. Further, the establishment of a diagnostic laboratory is essential to ensure a nutritious and disease-free source of animal food products for consumers.

**Section 2. Establishment of a Diagnostic Laboratory for Local Hogs.** The Department of Agriculture shall establish a state of the art Diagnostic Laboratory to Prevent Diseases for Local Hogs. The laboratory shall study and identify the disease strains that hit local hogs and shall recommend vaccines that shall counter such strains.

**Section. 3. Appropriations.** The necessary budget to establish the diagnostic laboratory shall be included in the 2009 budget of the Department of Agriculture.

**Section 4. Rules and Regulations.** — The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective enforcement of the provisions of this Act

**Section 5. Separability Clause.** – Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 6. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,