

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1979

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by Representatives
Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prohibit the slaughter of carabaos of certain ages, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 8485, which is also known as the Animal Welfare Act of 1998. The objective of the bill is to allow or grant exemption to the slaughter of carabaos and buffalos at certain ages, seven (7) years old or over if male, and eleven (11) years old or over if female. This is in light of the fact that when said animals are already of age, their marketability changes as well. They are not as prolific in producing milk and in giving birth anymore. Also, the quality of their meat decreases, resulting in reduced profitability. Hence, the owners may see them as liabilities rather than assets.

Moreover, the bill likewise seek to allow or grant exemption to the slaughter of carabaos and buffalos by integrating the circumstance "if they are raised or produced in commercial quantity, not as work animals." This circumstance is not included in the erstwhile R.A. No. 8485, thus, due to the change in modern conditions such as increase in population, the slaughter of concerned animals for meat processing and public consumption should be allowed.

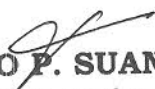
Worthy of noting is that the bill pursuant to the tenor of R.A. 8485, the legislative intent of promoting animal welfare in the country, and the international movement for the prevention of cruelty to animals, mandate that slaughter can take place only upon the issuance of the necessary permit from the authorities concerned.

The permit cannot be issued without a certificate from the provincial or city veterinarian concerned, or their authorized representative, to the effect that the carabao or buffalo to be slaughtered is of the required age, free from any disease or falls under any of the circumstances provided by R.A. No. 8485.

Ultimately, the objective of the bill is to incorporate an event that is brought about by society's changing conditions; it does not, in any way, hamper or restrict the movement for the protection and safety of animal welfare.

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


ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING
1st District, Nueva Ecija


HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.
2nd District, Sultan Kudarat

* This bill is a re-file of House Bill No. 1554 during the 16th Congress.

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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

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House Bill No. **1979**

Introduced by Representatives
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AN ACT

**PROHIBITING THE SLAUGHTER OF CARABAOS AT CERTAIN AGES,
AMENDING FO THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS "THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as
"The Animal Welfare Act of 1998", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. It shall be unlawful for any person to torture any animal, to
neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any
animal or to subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horsefights, kill or
cause or procure to be tortured or deprived of adequate care,
sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or
experiments not expressly authorized by the Committee on Animal
Welfare.

**"THE SLAUGHTER OF CARABAOS AND BUFFALO IS
PROHIBITED EXCEPT UNDER THE FOLLOWING
CONDITIONS:**

**"(A) ONLY CARABAOS AND BUFFALO THAT ARE
SEVEN (7) YEARS OLD OR OVER, IF MALE, AND ELEVEN
(11) YEARS OLD OR OVER, IF FEMALE, MAY BE
SLAUGHTERED UPON ISSUANCE OF THE NECESSARY
SLAUGHTER PERMIT BY THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED;
AND**

**"(B) NO SLAUGHTER PERMIT SHALL BE ISSUED
WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE BY THE PROVINCIAL OR CITY
VETERINARIAN CONCERNED, OR THEIR AUTHORIZED**

1 **REPRESENTATIVE, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE CARABAO**
2 **OR BUFFALO TO BE SLAUGHTERED IS OF THE REQUIRED**
3 **AGE AND FREE FROM ANY DISEASE.**

4 "The killing of **CARABAOS AND BUFFALO AS**
5 **PROVIDED HEREIN OR** ant animal other than [cattle,] **COWS,**
6 pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, [carabaos,] horses, deer and
7 crocodiles is likewise hereby declared unlawful except in the
8 following instances:

9 **"(1) WHEN THE CARABAOS OR BUFFALO ARE RAISED**
10 **IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITY, NOT AS WORK ANOMALS, BUT**
11 **FOR MEAT OR PROCESSING;**

12 "[1)] **(2)** When it is done as part of the religious rituals of
13 an established religion or sect or a ritual required by tribal or
14 ethnic custom of indigenous cultural communities; however,
15 leaders shall keep records in cooperation with the Committee on
16 Animal Welfare;

17 "[2)] **(3)** When the [pet] animal is afflicted with an
18 incurable communicable disease as determined and certified by
19 a duly licensed veterinarian;

20 "[3)] **(4)** When the killing is deemed necessary to put an
21 end to the misery suffered by the animal as determined and
22 certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;

23 "[4)] **(5)** When it is done to prevent an imminent danger
24 to the life or limb of a human being; [and]

25 "[5) When done for the purpose of animal population
26 control;]

27 "(6) When the animal is killed after it has been used in
28 authorized research or experiments; and

29 "(7) Any other ground analogous to the foregoing as
30 determined and certified by a licensed veterinarian.

31 "In all the above mentioned cases, including those of
32 [cattle,] **COWS,** pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabaos,
33 **BUFFALO,** horses, deer and crocodiles, the killing of the
34 animals shall be done through humane procedures at all times.

35 "For this purpose, humane procedures shall mean the
36 use of the most scientific methods available as may be

1 determined and approved by the Committee **ON ANIMAL**
2 **WELFARE.**

3 "Only those procedures approved by the Committee shall
4 be used in the killing of animals."

5 **SECTION 2.** All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations
6 or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
7 repealed or modified accordingly.

8 **SECTION 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

10 Approved,