

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



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**H. B. No. 4915**

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Introduced by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto  
6th District of Batangas

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BACKYARD  
LIVESTOCK RAISERS AFFECTED BY MAJOR ANIMAL DISEASE EPIDEMIC  
OR TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1578, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippine Livestock Industry provides livelihood for thousands of Filipino livestock raisers, as well as food for millions of Filipino families. In 2018, the local livestock industry registered an aggregate production value of P321.52 billion, which comprise about 17.66% of the total production value of the agricultural, hunting, forestry and fishing industry. During the same year, some 32.34 million heads of cattle, carabao, swine and goats were slaughtered in the country, of which 42.68% or 13.80 million were slaughtered in slaughterhouses nationwide. In 2017, an average Filipino consumes 66.45 grams of beef, carabeef, pork and chevon on a daily basis, providing every Filipino diet with an average of 212.51 grams of calories, 21.15 grams of proteins, and 13.90 grams of fat. Moreover, an average Filipino family spends almost P5,275 annually on fresh beef, pork and chevon, translating to an aggregate disbursement of about P119.90 billion.

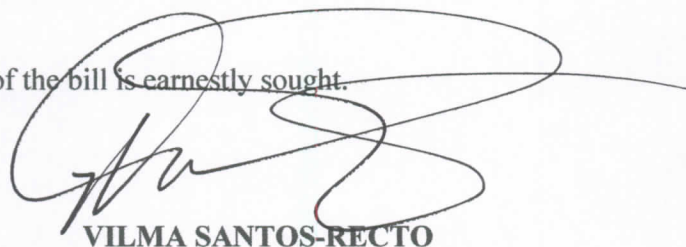
Given the economic and dietary importance of the local livestock industry, there is a need to ensure that livestock raisers, which maintain some 21.96 million livestock heads, remain agriculturally productive to realize the twin goals of reducing rural poverty and ensuring food security.

The government engagement in the local livestock industry, however, remains limited despite the significant contribution of the local livestock industry in the socioeconomic well-being of every Filipino. This limited role of government in managing the industry contributes to the persistence of inefficiencies that hinder the industry from realizing its full potential. Additionally, it inhibits the ability of the government to provide swift and timely interventions during emergency situations, particularly during the outbreak of animal disease epidemics and transboundary animal diseases.

This bill seeks to provide remedy to this situation by amending Republic Act No. 1578. Under the prevailing law, first enacted in 1952, municipal treasurers can only collect ninety cents (P0.90) for every head of cattle, carabao, buffalo, horse, mule and other animals of the bovine family; sixty cents (P0.60) for every head of swine; and thirty cents (P0.30) for every head of sheep, goat and deer slaughtered in any public or private slaughterhouse and in private meat packing establishments as pre-slaughter fees. This bill adjusts the rate of pre-slaughter fees to its present value, thereby increasing the potential collection of pre-slaughter fees by as much as 13,230%. Additionally, this proposed measure earmarks a portion of the Philippine Livestock Promotion Fund for direct financial assistance to backyard livestock raisers adversely affected by animal disease epidemics and transboundary animal disease. With these interventions, it is hoped that the government will have enough wherewithal to assist the local livestock industry especially during calamities and emergency situations.

The goal of the bill is simple yet noble and doable: to provide the government with the financial wherewithal to assist the industry that provides income and helps reduce poverty in the countryside, and that ensures the availability of food for all Filipinos.

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



VILMA SANTOS-RECTO



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REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1578, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 1578 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 "Sec. 2. The funds collected under the acts mentioned in the preceding  
3 section shall likewise be consolidated into a special [reimbursable]  
4 **ACCOUNT IN THE GENERAL** fund to be known as "Philippine Livestock  
5 Promotion Fund" which shall be used for the following purposes:

6 "(a) For the introduction, propagation, production, and distribution of  
7 purebred and improved breeding animals[.];

8 "(b) For the establishment, equipment, maintenance and operation of  
9 stock farms, breeding stations, breeding centers, fixed or ambulatory, and  
10 slaughterhouses, in such places as may be deemed appropriate therefor and  
11 beneficial to the livestock industry: *Provided, however,* That no  
12 slaughterhouse shall be established in the City of Manila **AND OTHER**  
13 **LOCATIONS TO BE IDENTIFIED BY THE RESPECTIVE LOCAL**  
14 **GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION[.];**

15 "(c) For the manufacture of biological products needed in the control  
16 and eradication and treatment of animal diseases and parasites[.];

1           “(d) For conducting experiments on the manufacture, preservation,  
2           utilization and industrialization of animal products, including milk and milk  
3           derivatives;

4           **“(E) FOR THE PROVISION OF DIRECT FINANCIAL**  
5           **ASSISTANCE TO BACKYARD LIVESTOCK RAISERS ADVERSELY**  
6           **AFFECTED BY MAJOR ANIMAL DISEASE EPIDEMIC OR**  
7           **TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES: PROVIDED, THAT THE**  
8           **AFFECTED BACKYARD LIVESTOCK RAISERS SHALL REGISTER**  
9           **WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) UNDER THE**  
10           **REGISTRY SYSTEM FOR BASIC SECTORS IN AGRICULTURE**  
11           **(RSBSA); and**

12           “[(e)] (F) For [such other purposes as may have for their object the  
13           stabilization, protection and development] **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
14           **OTHER PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE**  
15           **PRODUCTIVITY** of the Philippine Livestock Industry **AND TO**  
16           **PROTECT THE WELFARE OF BACKYARD LIVESTOCK**  
17           **RAISERS.”**

18           Sec. 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 1578 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19           “Sec. 3. The Director of Animal Industry, subject to the approval of the  
20           Secretary of Agriculture [and Natural Resources], is hereby authorized and  
21           empowered to make disbursements out of the fund herein created for salaries,  
22           wages, and traveling expenses of personnel; for the construction, maintenance  
23           and repair of buildings, fences and other necessary structures; for the purchase  
24           of large cattle and other domestic animals, furnishing the same to the public on  
25           economical terms for improved breeding, agricultural work or for  
26           consumption; for the purchase of apparatuses, instruments, chemicals, supplies  
27           and materials, and other needed equipment; **DIRECT FINANCIAL**  
28           **ASSISTANCE TO BACKYARD LIVESTOCK RAISERS;** and for such  
29           other expenses as may be deemed necessary to carry out effectively and  
30           properly the purposes of this Act.”

31           Sec. 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 1578 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32           “Sec. 4. In order to raise the necessary funds for the activities herein  
33           provided, there shall be collected for animals slaughtered in any public or



1 private slaughterhouse and in private meat packing establishments, including  
2 those in chartered cities, pre-slaughter fees at the following rates:

3 “(a) For cattle, carabaos, buffaloes, horses, mules and other animals of  
4 the bovine family [P0.90] **P120.00** per head[.];

5 “(b) For swine [P0.60] **P80.00** per head[.]; **AND**

6 “(c) For sheep, goats and deer [P0.30] **P40.00** per head.

7 “The municipal treasurers shall, in addition to their regular duties,  
8 make such collections and shall, at the end of every month, remit the same to  
9 the Treasurer of the Philippines to the credit of the "Philippine Livestock  
10 Promotion Fund" to be expended in accordance with the provisions of this Act.  
11 The provisions of this Section shall not be construed to deprive the  
12 municipalities of their present rights to impose and collect license fees for the  
13 slaughter of any animal or/and for the use of municipal slaughterhouses:  
14 Provided, That nothing in this Act shall be construed as amending or repealing  
15 existing regulations on the slaughter **OF** carabaos.

16 **“THE DA SHALL REVIEW AND ADJUST THE RATE OF PRE-**  
17 **SLAUGHTER FEES ONCE EVERY THREE (3) YEARS AFTER THE**  
18 **EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT USING THE CONSUMER PRICE**  
19 **INDEX AS PUBLISHED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS**  
20 **AUTHORITY**

21 Sec. 4. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 1578 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 “Sec. 5. The Director of Animal Industry may order the sale for  
23 agricultural, propagation, breeding or meat purposes, or the renting or loaning  
24 for breeding purposes, or the slaughter and sale in the form of meat, of the  
25 animals which may not be needed by the Bureau of Animal Industry, subject  
26 to the existing regulations and to such as may hereafter be promulgated by the  
27 Director of Animal Industry with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture  
28 [and Natural Resources]; and all the proceeds to be derived therefrom as well  
29 as all other income from the operation of this Act shall accrue to "Philippine  
30 Livestock Promotion Fund" herein created and may be expended by the  
31 Director of Animal Industry, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture  
32 [and Natural Resources], for the same purposes and in the same manner as  
33 provided in this Act.”

1           Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DA shall, in coordination with the  
2 Department of Budget and Management, Department of Finance, and other government  
3 agencies concerned, promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within  
4 sixty (60) days upon the approval of this Act.

5           Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, section or part of this Act shall be  
6 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any  
7 other provisions, sections or parts hereof.

8           Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 1578 and all other laws, acts, decrees,  
9 executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to  
10 and inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11           Sec. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
12 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,