

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 811



Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to find ways to help increase public awareness on the potentially lethal effects of food allergens. It is easier to cope with these conditions once the causes of these allergic reactions are known and awareness and prevention programs are undertaken.


Article 2, Section 15 of the Constitution provides:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

Food safety is the assurance that the food supply does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health. Several factors increase the hazards from the supply of food including rapid urbanization, increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, increased travel, higher demand for fast food, interest in ethnic and non-traditional food, new processing and handling technologies, emerging pathogens, immune-compromised and susceptible populations, and the emergence of allergens.

One area of concern involves the issue of food allergens. A food allergy is an adverse immune to a food protein. They are distinct from other adverse responses to food, such as food intolerance, pharmacological reactions, and toxin-mediated reactions. The immune system, thinking the organism (the individual) is under attack, triggers an allergic reaction. These reactions can range from mild to severe. Allergic responses include dermatitis, gastrointestinal and respiratory distress, including such life-threatening anaphylactic responses such as biphasic anaphylaxis and vasodilation. These require immediate emergency intervention. Individuals with protein allergies commonly avoid contact with the problematic protein. Some medications may prevent, minimize or treat protein allergy reactions. This is a significant public health issue.

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


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District of Muntinlupa

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 811

Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

AN ACT
TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE NATURE OF FOOD
ALLERGENS

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Food Allergens Awareness Act."

Sec 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Sec 3. Definition. - Food allergens refer to normally harmless substances that trigger an abnormal response in an allergic person. The immune system of a person with allergies responds to an allergen in the same way the immune system responds to a germ or antigen.

Sec 4. Department of Health Campaign. – The Department of Health (DOH) shall implement the following strategies for raising public awareness on the nature of food allergens, the health implications of food allergens, and how persons with food allergens can avoid potential complications due to such allergies:

(a) A wide scale outreach campaign utilizing print, radio, television, social media and other internet-based public service announcements, advertisements, posters, and other materials;

(b) Community forums;

(c) Health information and risk factor assessment at public events;

(d) Providing reliable information to policymakers;

(e) Distribution of information through local health agencies, schools, employer wellness programs, physicians, hospitals, health maintenance organizations,

community-based organizations, state fairs, and department of health and senior services offices;

(f) Identifying and obtaining educational materials that translate accurately the latest scientific information on food allergens in easy-to-understand terms.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec 6. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,