

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2291

Introduced by Rep: Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Islamic Religion, certain things and acts are sinful and forbidden. This is termed as *haram* and is one of the five Islamic Commandments that define the morality of human action. The category of *haram* is the highest status of prohibition. Among the things considered *haram* is the intake of pork or any of its derivatives.

Recent data indicate that there are close to five million Filipino Muslims all over the country, with the majority concentrated in several areas in Mindanao. Significant Muslim populations, including tourists and expatriates from Muslim countries, are also present in the major cities and urban areas. However, in a pre-dominantly Christian country like the Philippines, pork products are in abundance in the domestic market. Many food products have ingredients coming from pork or its derivatives and this is the reason why Filipino Muslims are very particular with the food they consume.

Among non-Muslims, there is now an increasing awareness against pork products, especially the health conscious. There are also certain Christian sects that prohibit the consumption of pork products. Hence, they share with the Muslims the same concerns in ensuring that the food they eat is pork-free.

It is unfortunate that common practices among distributors and retailers of meat products are not receptive to the religious and cultural sensitivities of Filipino Muslims. Pork products are being handled, stored and sold together with non-pork products, contaminating and rendering the latter unfit for consumption by Muslims.

It is, therefore, the objective of this bill to ensure that non-pork meat products available in the market shall be free from contamination from pork, its derivatives and other forbidden substances under the Islamic faith by requiring supermarkets, meat shops, as well as public and private markets in metropolitan and urban areas and such other areas with significant Muslim populations to segregate non-pork products from pork products or any product containing pork, its derivatives and other substances considered *haram*. This is to ensure that the food products Muslims consume are free from forbidden substances.

In view of the significance of this measure to the total development of the Philippine society where understanding and tolerance of its religious and cultural diversity reign, the prompt approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


MOHAMAD KHALID Q. DIMAPORO
1st District, Lanao del Norte

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AN ACT

REQUIRING SUPERMARKETS, MEAT SHOPS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MARKETS IN METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AREAS AND SUCH AREAS WITH SIGNIFICANT MUSLIM POPULATION IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, TO SEGREGATE NON-PORK MEAT PRODUCTS FROM PORK PRODUCTS AND ITS DERIVATIVES OR ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING PORK OR ANY OF ITS DERIVATIVES

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

SECTION 1. *Segregation of Non-Pork Products.* Supermarkets, meat shops and public and private markets in metropolitan and urban areas and such areas with significant Muslim populations, are hereby mandated to segregate non-pork products from pork products or its derivatives, or any product containing pork and its derivatives. Segregation shall be observed in all phases involving handling, storage and selling of the non-pork products.

SECTION 2. *Exclusivity of Equipment, Utensils and Devices for Non-Pork Products.* The management of the establishments mentioned in the preceding section shall ensure that equipment, utensils and devices used in the storage, handling and selling of non-pork products, such as but not limited to freezers, slicers, cutters, knives, scoops, containers, weighing scales and wrappers, shall be used exclusively for non-pork products to the exclusion of pork products or its derivatives or any product containing pork or its derivatives.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, in coordination with the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, shall issue such guidelines, orders or rules and regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of the provisions and purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Penalty Clause.* Violations of the provisions of this Act shall be penalized by a fine of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) for the first offense; ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) for the second offense and revocation of the permit to sell meat products for the third offense.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect after fifteen days following the completion of the publication requirements as provided by law.

Approved,