



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6978

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING FOOD SECURITY COLD STORAGE FACILITIES IN EVERY
PROVINCE OF THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Food security is a crucial aspect of any nation's well-being, and the Philippines is no exception. One of the ways to ensure food security is to have adequate storage facilities for perishable goods, such as fruits and vegetables. In order to achieve this, it is important to enact laws that require the establishment of cold storage facilities in every province of the country.

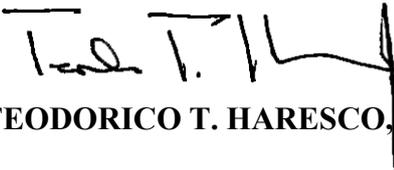
Cold storage facilities play a crucial role in maintaining food security by preserving perishable goods for longer periods of time. This can help to reduce food waste and ensure a steady supply of fresh produce, which can help to stabilize prices and reduce inflation. Additionally, cold storage facilities can protect stored food from pests and disease, helping to maintain food safety.

The establishment of cold storage facilities can also improve the efficiency of the country's food distribution and supply chains, as well as support local farmers by providing them with a place to store and sell their crops. This can help to increase the availability of agricultural goods, reducing the dependence on seasonal pricing, and increasing the income of farmers.

In a country like the Philippines where the agricultural sector has the capacity and capabilities to produce basic commodities for the whole country, having cold storage facilities alongside an agricultural import substitution policy can facilitate a harmonious ecosystem for producers and consumers while promoting food security and self-sustainability.

Overall, the implementation of laws requiring the establishment of food security cold storage facilities in every province in the Philippines can help to ensure food security and reduce inflation and rising prices of agricultural goods in the Philippines. By ensuring the preservation and safety of perishable basic goods, the country can take a significant step towards a more sustainable and stable food system. At the same time, when we support local government units to be self-sustaining, we disincentivize the ubiquity of smuggling and hoarding in the country.

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


TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR



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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the “*Food Security Cold Storage*
2 *Facilities Act*”.

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4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.***— The State recognizes the importance of food security
5 in ensuring the well-being of its citizens. To this end, the State declares it as a policy to establish
6 cold storage facilities in every province of the country to preserve perishable goods, and
7 improve food security. The State recognizes that cold storage facilities play a crucial role in
8 reducing food waste, ensuring a steady supply of fresh produce, and maintaining food safety.
9 The State further recognizes that the establishment of cold storage facilities can improve the
10 efficiency of the food supply chain, support local farmers, and increase the availability of
11 agricultural goods.

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13 It is hereby declared as a policy of the State to provide the necessary support to establish and
14 operate cold storage facilities in every surplus-producing local government units in all
15 provinces of the country. The State shall promote the use of cold storage facilities by farmers
16 and food processors to ensure the preservation and safety of perishable goods and ensure the
17 well-being of the people.

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19 **SECTION 3. *Establishment of Food Security Cold Storage Facilities in Every Province.*** —
20 There shall be established a food security cold storage facility center in every province in the
21 country in order to ensure the preservation and safety of perishable goods, such as crops, fruits,
22 and vegetables, and improve food security.

24 Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to
25 effectively serve as cold storage facilities could be designated as such in compliance with the
26 local government unit concerned.

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28 **SECTION 4. *Defining Food Security Cold Storage Facilities.*** – Food security cold storage
29 facilities refer to infrastructure designed to preserve perishable goods, such as crops, fruits, and
30 vegetables, and maintain their quality and safety. These facilities are equipped with
31 temperature-controlled rooms, refrigeration units, and other necessary equipment to ensure that
32 food products are stored at the right temperature and conditions.

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34 The purpose of food security cold storage facilities is to improve food security by reducing
35 food waste and ensuring a steady supply of fresh produce. These infrastructures shall utilize
36 renewable energy, provide water efficiency, and if possible, make use of sustainable materials.

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38 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Agency.*** — Department of Agriculture shall work with the local
39 government units to establish cold storage facilities in every province of the country. The
40 facilities shall be established in a manner that will ensure their accessibility to farmers and food
41 processors in the area.

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43 **SECTION 6. *Operationalization and Management.*** – The local government units shall be
44 responsible for the operationalization of the cold storage facilities in their respective provinces.
45 The Department of Agriculture shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance
46 to ensure the effective operation of the facilities.

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48 **SECTION 7. *Incentives.*** – The State shall provide incentives to private entities and local
49 government units that will establish and operate cold storage facilities in accordance with this
50 provision. The incentives may include tax exemptions, subsidies, and other forms of financial
51 support.

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53 **SECTION 8. *Monitoring and Evaluation.*** – The Department of Agriculture shall monitor and
54 evaluate the performance of the cold storage facilities and shall take necessary measures to
55 ensure their effectiveness in improving food security and reducing food waste.

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57 **SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
58 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall, in consultation with local
59 government units, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the
60 necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

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62 **SECTION 10. *Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund
63 the construction and maintenance of food security cold storage facilities shall be charged under
64 the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of food
65 security cold storage facilities shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The
66 LGU concerned shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation and management of the
67 facility.

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SECTION 11. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 13. *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, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,