

Republic Act No. 9711

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Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila

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[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9711]

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND RATIONALIZING THE REGULATORY CAPACITY OF THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS (BFAD) BY ESTABLISHING ADEQUATE TESTING LABORATORIES AND FIELD OFFICES, UPGRADING ITS EQUIPMENT, AUGMENTING ITS HUMAN RESOURCE COMPLEMENT, GIVING AUTHORITY TO RETAIN ITS INCOME, RENAMING IT THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA), AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3720, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. The Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) is hereby renamed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

SEC. 2. This Act shall be known as the "Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Act of 2009".

SEC. 3. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to adopt, support, establish, institutionalize, improve and maintain structures, processes, mechanisms and initiatives that are aimed, directed and designed to: (a) protect and promote the right to health of the Filipino people; and (b) help establish

and maintain an effective health products regulatory system and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems. Pursuant to this policy, the State must enhance its regulatory capacity and strengthen its capability with regard to the inspection, licensing and monitoring of establishments, and the registration and monitoring of health products.

SEC. 4. This Act has the following objectives:

- (a) To enhance and strengthen the administrative and technical capacity of the FDA in the regulation of establishments and products under its jurisdiction;
- (b) To ensure the FDA's monitoring and regulatory coverage over establishments and products under its jurisdiction; and
- (c) To provide coherence in the FDA's regulatory system for establishments and products under its jurisdiction.

SEC. 5. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. To carry out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby created an office to be called the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the Department of Health (DOH). Said Administration shall be under the Office of the Secretary and shall have the following functions, powers and duties:

"(a) To administer the effective implementation of this Act and of the rules and regulations issued pursuant to the same;

"(b) To assume primary jurisdiction in the collection of samples of health products;

"(c) To analyze and inspect health products in connection with the implementation of this Act;

"(d) To establish analytical data to serve as basis for the preparation of health products standards, and to recommend standards of identity, purity, safety, efficacy, quality and fill of container;

"(e) To issue certificates of compliance with technical requirements to serve as basis for the issuance of appropriate authorization and spot-check for compliance with regulations regarding operation of manufacturers, importers, exporters, distributors, wholesalers, drug outlets, and other establishments and facilities of health products, as determined by the FDA;

"x x x

"(h) To conduct appropriate tests on all applicable health products prior to the issuance of appropriate authorizations to ensure safety, efficacy, purity, and quality;

"(i) To require all manufacturers, traders, distributors, importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers, consumers, and non-consumer users of health products to report to the FDA any incident that reasonably indicates that said product has caused or contributed to the death, serious illness or serious injury to a consumer, a patient, or any person;

"(j) To issue cease and desist orders motu proprio or upon verified complaint for health products, whether or not registered with the FDA: Provided, That for registered health products, the cease and desist order is valid for thirty (30) days and may be extended for sixty (60) days only after due process has been observed;

"(k) After due process, to order the ban, recall, and/or withdrawal of any health product found to have caused the death, serious illness or serious injury to a consumer or patient, or is found to be imminently injurious, unsafe, dangerous, or grossly deceptive, and to require all concerned to implement the risk management plan which is a requirement for the issuance of the appropriate authorization;

"(l) To strengthen the post market surveillance system in monitoring health products as defined in this Act and incidents of adverse events involving such products;

"(m) To develop and issue standards and appropriate authorizations that would cover establishments, facilities and health products;

"(n) To conduct, supervise, monitor and audit research studies on health and safety issues of health products undertaken by entities duly approved by the FDA;

"(o) To prescribe standards, guidelines, and regulations with respect to information, advertisements and other marketing instruments and promotion, sponsorship, and other marketing activities about the health products as covered in this Act;

"(p) To maintain bonded warehouses and/or establish the same, whenever necessary or appropriate, as determined by the director-general for confiscated goods in strategic areas of the country especially at major ports of entry; and

"(q) To exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities under this Act."

SEC. 6. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, is hereby further amended and new subsections are added to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. The FDA shall have the following centers and offices:

"(a) The Centers shall be established per major product category that is regulated, namely:

"(1) Center for Drug Regulation and Research (to include veterinary medicine, vaccines and biologicals);

"(2) Center for Food Regulation and Research;

"(3) Center for Cosmetics Regulation and Research (to include household hazardous/urban substances); and

"(4) Center for Device Regulation, Radiation Health, and Research.

"These Centers shall regulate the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, sale, offer for sale, transfer, promotion, advertisement, sponsorship of, and/or, where appropriate, the use and testing of health products. The Centers shall likewise conduct research on the safety, efficacy, and quality of health products, and to institute standards for the same.

"(b) Each Center shall be headed by a director. The Centers shall be so organized such that each will have, at least, the following divisions:

"(1) Licensing and Registration Division, which shall be responsible for evaluating health products and establishments as covered by this Act for the purpose of issuance of authorizations and conditions to be observed;

"(2) Product Research and Standards Development Division, which shall be responsible for the conduct of research, development of standards and regulations, compliance monitoring, and the oversight and audit of related researches that would ensure safety, quality, purity and efficacy of health products, as covered in this Act; and

"(3) Laboratory Support Division, which shall be responsible for the conduct of research and appropriate tests and calibration, analyses and trials of products including, but not limited to, assays, and the conduct of oversight and/or audit of centers conducting bioavailability and bioequivalence tests and other tests as covered by this Act. It shall likewise provide direct line support to the centers which shall be separate and distinct per major product category that is regulated.

“(c) The Administration and Finance Office headed by the deputy director-general for administration and finance shall have, at least, the following divisions: the Human Resource Development Division; Property and Logistics Management Division; Human Resource Management Division; Assets and Financial Management Division; and the Information and Communication Technology Management Division.

“(d) The Policy and Planning Office which shall be under the Office of the Director-General shall have, at least, a training, advocacy and communications division and shall monitor the performance of the centers for product research and evaluation and standards development.

“(e) The Field Regulatory Operations Office headed by the deputy director-general for field regulatory operations shall include, among others, all the field offices, field or satellite laboratories and the regulatory enforcement units.

“(f) The Legal Services Support Center shall provide legal services to the entire FDA and shall be directly under the Office of the Director-General.”

SEC. 7. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, is hereby further amended, to read as follows:

“(a) The FDA shall be headed by a director-general, with the rank of undersecretary, who shall be tasked, among others, to determine the needed personnel and, to appoint personnel, below the assistant director level in coordination with the Secretary of Health.

“(b) The director-general shall be assisted by two (2) deputy directors-general, one for administration and finance and another for field regulatory operations.

“(c) The director-general and deputy directors-general shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

“(d) The director-general shall, preferably, possess either a university degree in medicine or at least the relevant master’s degree in pharmaceutical sciences or allied sciences, or equivalent executive course in any regulatory management. In addition, he/she shall have management experience in his/her field of discipline or profession and in any development, manufacturing, regulatory work or quality assurance of products as covered in this Act.

“(e) The Deputy Director-General for Field Regulatory Operations of the FDA shall, preferably, possess the relevant master’s degree in pharmaceutical sciences or allied sciences, or equivalent executive course in any regulatory management. In addition, he/she shall have management experience in his/her field of discipline or profession and in any development, manufacturing, regulatory work or quality assurance of products as covered in this Act.

“(f) The Deputy Director-General for Administration and Finance of the FDA shall be a certified public accountant or shall possess a master’s degree in accounting, management, economics or any business course, and must have management experience in a position related to his/her field of discipline or profession.

“(g) A person who was previously employed in a regular full-time capacity regardless of its consultative designation at higher management supervisory levels in regulated establishments, including related foundations, shall be disqualified from appointment as director-general and deputy director-general within three (3) years from termination of employment with the said establishment or foundation. All persons who are candidates for appointment as director-general and deputy director-general must disclose all their incomes for the past three (3) years from all establishments regulated by this Act. The director-general and the two (2) deputy directors-general shall, upon assumption into office, declare any conflict of interest with any establishment covered by the FDA, including their foundations.

“(h) Each center and field office shall be headed by a director who shall be assisted by an assistant director. These directors shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health.

“(i) The existing directors of the Bureau of Health Devices and Technology (BHDT) and division chiefs of the BFAD shall be given preference for appointment as directors and assistant directors of their respective centers: Provided, That if the current officers of the BFAD and the BHDT applying for the above positions lack the required third level civil service eligibility, they will have to comply with the said requirement within three (3) years from their appointment, otherwise their appointment shall be revoked immediately.”

SEC. 8. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“The FDA shall review its staffing pattern and position titles subject to the approval of the Secretary of Health.”

SEC. 9. Section 10, subsections (a), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (q), (r), (v), and (w) of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, are hereby further amended, and new subsections (x), (y), (z), (aa), (bb), (cc), (dd), (ee), (ff), (gg), (hh), (ii), (jj), (kk), (ll), and (mm) are hereby added to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. For the purposes of this Act, the term:

“(a) ‘FDA’ means the Food and Drug Administration.

“x x x

“(e) ‘Food’ means any processed substance which is intended for human consumption and includes drink for man, beverages, chewing gum and any substances which have been used as an ingredient in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of food.

“(f) ‘Drug’ means: (1) articles recognized in official pharmacopeias and formularies, including official homeopathic pharmacopeias, or any documentary supplement to any of them, which are recognized and adopted by the FDA; (2) articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in man or other animals; (3) articles (other than food) intended to affect the structure of any function of the body of humans or animals; or (4) articles intended for use as a component of any articles specified in clauses (1), (2), or (3) but do not include devices or their components, parts or accessories.

“(g) ‘Device’ means medical devices, radiation devices and health-related devices.

“(1) ‘Medical device’ means any instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, appliance, implant, in-vitro reagent or calibrator, software, material, or other similar or related article intended by the manufacturer to be used alone, or in combination, for human beings for one or more of the specific purpose(s) of: diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of disease; diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of, or compensation for an injury; investigation, replacement, modification, or support of the anatomy or of a physiological process; supporting or sustaining life; preventing infection; control of conception; disinfection of medical devices; and providing information for medical or diagnostic purposes by means of in-vitro examination of specimens derived from the human body. This device does not achieve its primary intended action in or on the human body by pharmacological, immunological or metabolic means but which may be assisted in its intended function by such means.

“(2) ‘Radiation device’ means an electrical or electronic apparatus emitting any ionizing or non-ionizing electromagnetic or particulate radiation; or any sonic, infrasonic, or ultrasonic wave. It includes ionizing radiation emitting equipment which is not intentionally designed to produce radioactive materials.

“(3) ‘Health-related device’ means any device not used in health care but has been determined by the FDA to adversely affect the health of the people.

“(h) ‘Cosmetics’ means any substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the various external parts of the human body or with the teeth and the mucous membranes of the oral cavity, with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance and/or correcting body odor, and/or protecting the body or keeping them in good condition.

“(i) ‘Label’ means a display of written, printed, or graphic matter upon the immediate container of any article and a requirement made by or under authority of this Act that any word, statement, or other information appearing on the label shall not be considered to be complied with unless such word, statement, or other information also appears on the outside container or wrapper, if any there be, of the retail package of such article, or easily legible through the outside container or wrapper.

“x x x

“(q) ‘Director-general’ means the head of the FDA.

“(r) ‘Distribute’ means the delivery or sale of any health product for purposes of distribution in commerce, except that such term does not include the manufacture or retail of such product.

“x x x

“(v) ‘Manufacturer’, in relation to a health product, means an establishment engaged in any and all operations involved in the production of health products including preparation, processing, compounding, formulating, filling, packing, repacking, altering, ornamenting, finishing and labeling with the end in view of its storage, sale or distribution: Provided, That the term shall not apply to the compounding and filling of prescriptions in drugstores and hospital pharmacies. A trader shall be categorized as a manufacturer.

“(w) ‘Veterinary drugs’ means drugs intended for use for animals including any drug intended for use in animal feeds but not including animal feeds within the contemplation of the implementing rules and regulations.

“(x) ‘Assay’ is an analysis to determine the (1) presence of a substance and the amount of that substance, or (2) the pharmaceutical potency of a drug.

“(y) ‘Authorization’ means a permission embodied in a document granted by the FDA to a natural or juridical person who has submitted an application to implement the manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offer for sale, distribution, transfer, and/or, where appropriate, the use, testing, promotion, advertising, or sponsorship of health products. The authorization can take the form of a permit, a license, a certificate of registration, of accreditation, of compliance, or of exemption, or any similar document.

“(z) ‘Bioavailability’ means the rate and extent to which the active ingredient or therapeutic ingredient is absorbed from a drug and becomes available at the site of drug action.

“(aa) ‘Bioequivalence’ means the rate and extent of absorption to which the drugs do not show a significant difference from the rate and extent of the listed drug when administered at the same molar dose of the therapeutic ingredient under similar experimental conditions in either a single dose or multiple doses. Bioequivalence shall also refer to the absence of a significant difference on the rate and extent to which the active ingredient(s) of the sample and reference drug becomes available at the site of drug action when administered under the same molar dose and under similar conditions.

“(bb) ‘Distributor/importer/exporter’ means any establishment that imports or exports raw materials, active ingredients and/or finished products for its own use or for wholesale distribution to other establishments or outlets. If the distributor/importer/exporter sells to the general public, it shall be considered a retailer.

“(cc) ‘Distributor/wholesaler’ means any establishment that procures raw materials, active ingredients and/or finished products from local establishments for local distribution on wholesale basis.

“(dd) ‘Establishment’ means a sole proprietorship, a partnership, a corporation, an institution, an association, or an organization engaged in the manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offer for sale, distribution, donation, transfer, use, testing, promotion, advertising, or sponsorship of health products including the facilities and installations needed for its activities.

“(ee) ‘Food/dietary supplement’ means a processed food product intended to supplement the diet that bears or contains one or more of the following dietary ingredients: vitamin, mineral, herb, or other botanical, amino acid, and dietary substance to increase the total daily intake in amounts conforming to the latest Philippine recommended energy and nutrient intakes or internationally agreed minimum daily requirements. It usually is in the form of capsules, tablets, liquids, gels, powders or pills and not represented for use as a conventional food or as the sole item of a meal or diet or replacement of drugs and medicines.

“(ff) ‘Health products’ means food, drugs, cosmetics, devices, biologicals, vaccines, in-vitro diagnostic reagents and household/urban hazardous substances and/or a combination of and/or a derivative thereof. It shall also refer to products that may have an effect on health which require regulations as determined by the FDA.

“(gg) ‘Household/urban hazardous substance’ is:

“(1) Any substance or mixture of substances intended for individual or limited purposes and which is toxic, corrosive, an irritant, a strong sensitizer, is flammable or combustible, or generates pressure through decomposition, heat or other means, if such substance or mixture of

substances may cause substantial injury or substantial illness during or as a proximate result of any customary or reasonably foreseeable ingestion by children, but shall not include agricultural fertilizer, pesticide, and insecticide, and other economic poisons, radioactive substance, or substances intended for use as fuels, coolants, refrigerants and the like;

“(2) Any substance which the FDA finds to be under the categories enumerated in clause (1) of this paragraph;

“(3) Any toy or other articles intended for use by children which the FDA may determine to pose an electrical, chemical, physical, or thermal hazard; and

“(4) This term shall not apply to food, drugs, cosmetics, devices, or to substances intended for use as fuels when stored in containers and used in the heating, cooking or refrigeration system of a house, but such term shall apply to any article which is not in itself an agricultural pesticide but which is a hazardous substance, as construed in paragraph (1) of this section, by reason of bearing or containing such harmful substances described therein.

“(hh) ‘In-vitro diagnostic reagents’ are reagents and systems intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions, including a determination of the state of health, in order to cure, mitigate, treat or prevent disease or its sequelae.

“(ii) ‘Licensing’ means the process of approval of an application to operate or establish an establishment prior to engaging in the manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offer for sale, distribution, transfer, and where applicable the use, testing, promotion, advertisement, and/or sponsorship of health products.

“(jj) ‘Misbranding’ means, in addition to definitions in existing laws, misinformation or misleading information on the label or other information materials authorized by the FDA. It shall not refer to copyright, trademark, or other intellectual property-like instruments.

“(kk) ‘Registration’ means the process of approval of an application to register health products prior to engaging in the manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offer for sale, distribution, transfer, and where applicable, the use, testing, promotion, advertisement, and/or sponsorship of health products.

“(ll) ‘Trader’ means any establishment which is a registered owner of a health product and procures the raw materials and packing components and provides the production monographs, quality control standards and procedures, but subcontract the manufacture of such product to a licensed manufacturer. In addition, a trader may also engage in the distribution and/or marketing of its products.

“(mm) ‘Retailer’ means any establishment which sells or offers to sell any health product directly to the general public.”

SEC. 10. Section 11, subsections (a), (b), (d), (g), (j), (k) and (l) of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, are hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. The following acts and the causing thereof are hereby prohibited:

“(a) The manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offering for sale, distribution, transfer, non-consumer use, promotion, advertising, or sponsorship of any health product that is adulterated, unregistered or misbranded.

“(b) The adulteration or misbranding of any health product.

“x x x

“(d) The giving of a guaranty or undertaking referred to in Section twelve (b) hereof which guaranty or undertaking is false, except by a person who relied upon a guaranty or undertaking to the same effect, signed by, and containing the name and address of the person or entity from whom he received in good faith the health products or the giving of a guaranty or undertaking referred to in Section twelve (b) which guaranty or undertaking is false.

“x x x

“(g) The alteration, mutilation, destruction, obliteration, or removal of the whole or any part of the labeling of, or the doing of any other act with respect to health products if such act is done while such article is held for sale (whether or not the first sale) and results in such article being adulterated or misbranded: Provided, That a retailer may sell in smaller quantities, subject to guidelines issued by the FDA.

“x x x

“(j) The manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offering for sale, distribution, transfer, non-consumer use, promotion, advertisement, or sponsorship of any health product which, although requiring registration, is not registered with the FDA pursuant to this Act.

“(k) The manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offering for sale, distribution, transfer, or retail of any drug, device or in-vitro diagnostic reagent; the manufacture, importation, exportation, transfer or distribution of any food, cosmetic or household/urban hazardous substance; or the operation of a radiation or pest control establishment by any natural or juridical person without the license to operate from the FDA required under this Act.

“(l) The sale, offering for sale, importation, exportation, distribution or transfer of any health product beyond its expiration or expiry date, if applicable.

“x x x

“The prohibited acts mentioned herein shall cover all applicable health products.”

SEC. 11. Section 12, subsection (a) of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. (a) Any person who violates any of the provisions of Section eleven hereof shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment ranging from one (1) year but not more than ten (10) years or a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court: Provided, That if the offender is a manufacturer, importer or distributor of any health product, the penalty of at least five (5) years imprisonment but not more than ten (10) years and a fine of at least Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) shall be imposed: Provided, further, That an additional fine of one percent (1%) of the economic value/cost of the violative product or violation, or One thousand pesos (P1,000.00), whichever is higher, shall be imposed for each day of continuing violation: Provided, finally, That health products found in violation of the provisions of this Act and other relevant laws, rules and regulations may be seized and held in custody pending proceedings, without hearing or court order, when the director-general has reasonable cause to believe from facts found by him/her or an authorized officer or employee of the FDA that such health products may cause injury or prejudice to the consuming public.

“x x x

“Should the offense be committed by a juridical person, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the president, general manager, or the partners and/or the persons directly responsible therefor shall be penalized.

“Should the offense be committed by a foreign national, he/she shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed, be deported without further proceedings after service of sentence.

“x x x

SEC. 12. Section 26, subsections (c) and (d) of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, are hereby further amended and subsection (g) is hereby added thereto to read as follows:

“x x x

“(c) Hearings authorized or required by this Act shall be conducted by the FDA.

“(d) Upon preliminary findings of the conduct of prohibited act/s, the director-general shall issue the proper notices or orders to the person or persons concerned and such person or persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard before the FDA.

“x x x

“(g) Both criminal and administrative actions may be instituted separately and independent of one another.”

SEC. 13. Section 29-A of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, is hereby further amended, and new subsections are added to read as follows:

“SEC. 29-A. *Administrative Sanctions.* — Where there is finding of prohibited actions and determination of the persons liable thereto, after notice and hearing, the director-general is empowered to impose one or more of the following administrative penalties:

“(1) Cancellation of any authorization which may have been granted by the FDA, or suspension of the validity thereof for such period of time as the director-general may deem reasonable which shall not exceed one (1) year;

“(2) A fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00). An additional fine of not more than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) shall be imposed for each day of continuing violation; and

“(3) Destruction and/or appropriate disposition of the subject health product, and/or closure of the establishment for any violation of this Act, as determined by the director-general.”

SEC. 14. A new Section 30 and a new headnote “Additional Powers and Functions of the Director-General” are hereby added to Republic Act No. 3720, which shall read as follows:

“SEC. 30. The Director-General shall also exercise the following powers:

“(1) To hold in direct or indirect contempt any person who disregards orders or writs he or she issues and impose the appropriate penalties following the same procedures and penalties provided in the Rules of Court;

“(2) To administer oaths and affirmations and issue subpoena duces tecum and subpoena ad testificandum requiring the production of such books, contracts, correspondence, records, statement of accounts and other documents and/or the attendance and testimony of parties and

witnesses as may be material to the investigation conducted by the FDA;

“(3) To obtain information from any officer or office of the national or local governments, government agencies and its instrumentalities;

“(4) To issue orders of seizure, to seize and hold in custody any article or articles of food, device, cosmetics, household hazardous substances and health products that is adulterated, counterfeited, misbranded or unregistered, or drug, in-vitro diagnostic reagent, biologicals, and vaccine that is adulterated or misbranded, when introduced into domestic commerce pending the authorized hearing under Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, Executive Order No. 175 (1987), and Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the Consumers Act of the Philippines;

“(5) To call on the assistance of any department, office or agency and deputize members of the Philippine National Police or any law enforcement agency for the effective implementation of this Act; and

“(6) To exercise such powers and functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.”

SEC. 15. Two new sections shall be added, which shall be the new Sections 31 and 32 of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, which shall read as follows:

“SEC. 31. The orders, rulings or decisions of the FDA shall become final and executory fifteen (15) days after the receipt of a copy thereof by the party adversely affected unless within that period, an administrative appeal has been perfected. One motion for reconsideration may be filed, which shall suspend the running of the said period.”

“SEC. 32. The orders, rulings or decisions of the FDA shall be appealable to the Secretary of Health. An appeal shall be deemed perfected upon filing of the notice of appeal and posting of the corresponding appeal bond.

“An appeal shall not stay the decision appealed from unless an order from the Secretary of Health is issued to stay the execution thereof.”

SEC. 16. Section 30 of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, shall be renumbered as Section 33, and the subsequent sections shall also be renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 17. Section 31, Chapter XIII of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 34. *Fees and Other Income.* —

“(a) Upon the sole approval of the Secretary, the authorization and other fees shall annually be determined and reviewed by the FDA and any proposed increase shall be published in two (2) leading newspapers of general circulation.

“(b) There shall be determined and constituted additional fees such as sale of publications and services, assessment fees, fines, penalties, and other fees and charges outside the usual licensing and registration fees, to be known as ‘other related regulatory fees’.

“(c) The Director-General of the FDA, upon approval of the Secretary, shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the collection of the ‘other related regulatory fees’. Upon approval of the Secretary, these fees shall likewise be reviewed periodically and any proposed increase shall be published in two (2) leading newspapers of general circulation.”

SEC. 18. All income that the FDA is allowed to retain under Section 31 of the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008 shall, any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, be deposited in an authorized government depository bank as a special regulatory fund. Any interest earned by such fund shall form part of the retained income. Such fund shall be used primarily for the acquisition of office and laboratory space, human resource development and expansion, purchase of laboratory equipment and motor vehicles, the upgrading of its current facilities and equipment and maintenance, other operating expenses of the central office laboratory divisions and satellite laboratories in Davao, Cebu and other testing laboratories, in case the above laboratories will be increased, and other activities or services of the agency in the performance of its mandate.

The fund shall be allowed to accept grants, donations and all other endowments from local and external sources in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

The retention, use and application of this fund shall not be delayed, amended, altered or modified, or affected in any way by an order or directive from any executive office, but will be subject only to the general accounting rules and guidelines by the Commission on Audit (COA). The primary purpose of the fund as herein stated shall prevail over any other purpose that may be pursued by the FDA on its own initiative or through an order or directive by any higher office. The FDA shall submit to the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Budget and Management and the Congressional Oversight Committee, created under Section 23 of this Act, a report on how the funds were utilized, including its accomplishments.

There shall also be established a legal fund out of the interest earned from the retained income for use in case of legal actions against the officials and employees of the FDA in the course of the exercise of their official functions and duties.

SEC. 19. The FDA shall establish a Regulatory Enforcement Unit (REU) for a period not exceeding five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. It shall be composed of at least five (5) qualified personnel in every region who shall be directly under the control and supervision of the Deputy Director-General for Field Regulatory Operations and shall be administratively supported by the field offices. They shall:

- (a) Bear arms, wear official uniforms and insignias and shall be classified as law enforcement agents;
- (b) Serve and execute rulings, orders, and decisions of the Director-General of the FDA; and
- (c) Execute and serve search warrants and arrest warrants issued by the courts in connection with violations under this Act and related laws concerning the regulation of health products.

All law enforcement agents shall undergo the appropriate training to equip them with the necessary skills needed for this purpose. Their authority and functions shall be strictly limited to the implementation of the FDA's regulatory functions.

All regional regulatory enforcement units shall be headed by a lawyer who is at least thirty (30) years old but not older than fifty (50), an Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) member of good standing, and shall have a rank of a Division Director; and an assistant who must be at the very least a law graduate who shall have a rank of an Assistant Division Director.

SEC. 20. A new chapter XIV and three new sections, Sections 35, 36, and 37 shall be introduced, which shall read as follows:

"CHAPTER XIV

"TESTING LABORATORIES AND FIELD OFFICES

"SEC. 35. The FDA is hereby mandated to improve, upgrade and increase the capability of the agency, to test, calibrate, assay and examine samples of health products. For the purpose of achieving the above mandate, there shall be established at least one (1) testing laboratory each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, which shall have the necessary and appropriate state-of-the-art laboratory equipment and personnel complement. The main testing laboratories at the central office shall be maintained and shall serve as a support unit to the centers for product research and evaluation and standards development and shall serve as testing centers that would include assay and the conduct, supervision, oversight and/or audit of bioequivalence and bioavailability test/researches, among others. The existing laboratories in Cebu and Davao will be upgraded and transformed as quality assurance laboratories, while another one will be established in Subic, Zambales.

“The testing laboratories may be increased by the director-general, upon approval of the Secretary. Moreover, the director-general, upon approval of the Secretary, may call upon other government and private testing laboratories to conduct testing, calibration, assay and examination of samples of health products: Provided, That the private testing laboratories are accredited by the Philippine Accreditation Office (PAO) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the DOH.”

“SEC. 36. The FDA shall establish field offices in all regions of the country to effectively implement its regulatory functions. The current regional food and drug regulatory officers and regional health physicists in every regional office of the DOH shall now be put under the FDA’s sole control and supervision. The regional field office shall also assume primary jurisdiction in the collection of samples of food, drugs, devices and cosmetics being imported or offered for import at a port of entry other than Manila in his/her assigned region and where it appears that said items or products satisfy any of the conditions as provided for in Section 33(a) of Republic Act No. 3720, as amended, without prejudice to the exercise of the powers of the director-general provided under Sections 13 and 14 of this Act in the exercise of the agency’s regulatory functions. The field offices shall be comprised of the following: (a) licensing, inspection and compliance division, which shall have charge of the inspection of food, drugs and cosmetic establishments engaged in their manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale; (b) satellite laboratory division; and (c) administrative division.”

“SEC. 37. The FDA, with the approval of the Secretary, shall create organizational units which are deemed necessary to address emerging concerns and to be abreast with internationally acceptable standards. There shall be created additional plantilla positions to augment the human resource complement of the FDA, subject to existing rules and regulations.”

SEC. 21. *Appropriations.* — The appropriations for the BFAD and the BHDT included in the budget of the DOH under the current General Appropriations Act shall be used to carry out the implementation of this Act. The appropriation may be augmented by the income which the agency is authorized to use under this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The DOH shall promulgate, in consultation with the FDA, the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days after the passage of this Act.

SEC. 23. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* — A Congressional Oversight Committee (COC) is hereby created composed of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Health and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and two (2) Members to be appointed by the Speaker, the Chairpersons

of the Committees on Health and Finance of the Senate and two (2) Members to be appointed by the President of the Senate, to oversee the implementation of this Act for a period of five (5) years and to review the accomplishments and the utilization of income of the FDA. The secretariat of the COC shall be drawn from the existing personnel of the committees comprising the COC.

SEC. 24. *Transitory Provisions.* — The BFAD Director and Deputy Director shall serve as FDA Director-General and Deputy Director-General for Field Regulatory Operations, respectively. The current officials and employees of the BFAD shall be transferred as far as practicable to the appropriate unit in the FDA as determined by the Director-General. The current officials and employees of the BHDT shall be transferred to the Center for Device Regulation, Radiation Health, and Research. The current regional food and drug regulatory officers and regional health physicists under the Centers for Health Development of the DOH shall be transferred as far as practicable to the appropriate unit in the FDA as determined by the Director-General. There shall be no demotion in ranks and positions and no diminution in salaries, benefits, allowances and emoluments of all BFAD, BHDT and indicated Center for Health and Development (CHD) personnel transferred to the FDA. All positions, powers, functions and duties together with the facilities, equipment, supplies, records, files, appropriations, and funds for these bureaus and the indicated CHD personnel shall be transferred to the FDA.

SEC. 25. *Coverage.* — This Act shall govern all health products: Provided, That nothing in this Act shall be deemed to modify the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of other specialized agencies and special laws only insofar as the acts covered by these specialized agencies and laws, including, but not limited to, those covered by Republic Act No. 9211, Executive Order No. 245, Executive Order No. 18, and Presidential Decree No. 1468.

SEC. 26. *Separability Clause.* — If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions or parts thereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 27. *Repealing Clause.* — Laws or part of laws, executive orders, circulars, regulations and memoranda inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 28. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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(Sgd.) PROSPERO C. NOGRALES
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives*

(Sgd.) JUAN PONCE ENRILE
President of the Senate

This Act which originated in the Senate Bill No. 2645 and House Bill No. 2393 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on June 3, 2009.

(Sgd.) MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP
*Secretary General
House of Representatives*

(Sgd.) EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved: **AUG 18 2009**

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
President of the Philippines

Source: **CDAsia** (<http://www.cdasia.com/>).

RESOURCES

- [PDF] [Republic Act No. 9711, August 18, 2009](http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2009/08aug/20090818-RA-9711-GMA.pdf)
(<http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2009/08aug/20090818-RA-9711-GMA.pdf>).

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