

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1282



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**Introduced by Representative Hon. Christopher V.P. de Venecia**

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**AN ACT**  
**REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8172, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT PROMOTING SALT IODIZATION NATIONWIDE AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES’**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The ASIN Law, or the “Act Promoting Salt Iodization Nationwide and for Related Purposes” was enacted on July 24th of 1975. The purpose of this Act was to contribute to the elimination of micronutrient malnutrition, specifically iodine deficiency disorders through the cost-effective preventive measure of salt iodization.

The ASIN Law requires all producers and manufacturers of food-grade salt to iodize the salt they produce, manufacture, import, trade or distribute. It further required local government units to check and monitor the quality of food-grade salt sold in their market to ascertain that the salt is iodized. Lastly, it also placed a burden on food outlets, restaurants and stores to make available to their customers only iodized salt in their establishment.

Violations of this Act include sanctions in the form of a fine between one thousand pesos (Php 1,000) to One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000). Further sanctions include the revocation of business permits, or banning of products from the market.

However, the Export Development Council - Networking Committee on Legislative Advocacy and Monitoring has noted that this current law imposes many challenges on the market.<sup>1</sup> In particular, it poses a challenge to the local salt industry, as this restriction makes it difficult for them to compete with the global market of salt and food products. Local producers are thus unable to offer a wide array of different salt types in the domestic market. The regulation is also a limitation on the salt producers’ ability to make innovations on the type of salt that will fit the needs of a product, and leads to the loss of some nutrients during processing.

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<sup>1</sup> EDC addressing challenges of ASIN Law (<https://www.dti.gov.ph/negosyo/exports/emb-news/edc-addressing-challenges-of-asin-law/>)

It is even more disheartening that this law makes it illegal for local salt producers to sell their own salts, but encourages the importing of salt that is iodized. The ASIN Law overlooks the fact that there are many varieties of salt all over the country, and that the production of salt is an important part of culinary tradition, and plays an important part in our culinary culture and diversity.

This is because the restriction placed on salt also creates a “domino effect” in the culinary industry, and the economy as a whole. For example, tinapa makers in Cavite and Dagupan have noted that the use of iodized salt causes tinapang bangus to taste differently, which consequently affected their business. Moreover, farmers noted that when the ASIN Law was passed, there was no ample preparation given for salt bed owners and salt makers. Thus, the restriction of only using iodized salt caused the cessation of making of fleur de sel type of salt found in Kawit, Cavite. This then affected the tinapa makers in Rosario, Cavite, who relied on the deliveries of salt made by their neighboring town of Kawit. Salt makers even claim that the ASIN Law killed the salt industry in Cavite.

The salt industry is in need of saving, not just in Cavite, but all over the Philippines. Mr. Ige Ramos, an award-winning food historian, food writer and communicator, has written about how salt beds and storehouses are fast disappearing.<sup>2</sup> Micky Fenix, a food columnist, further notes that there is a danger that traditional methods of making salt, such as *budbod*, will vanish.<sup>3</sup>

Vera Villocido, in her book “Asin Tibuok” has detailed the process of making such *Asin Tibuok*. Here, clay pots are used as there is no other way to make this particular salt. She recognizes *Asin Tibuok* as the cultural heritage of Albuquerque, Bohol, where she grew up. However, she states that this is a “living and dying tradition at the same time.” *Asin Tibuok* is not ordinary table salt, and is affected by the current prohibition found in the ASIN Law.

This bill seeks to address the challenge for small local farmers to compete with large salt producers, especially in the global market. It also seeks to revive the practice of salt makers to make different varieties of salt that are unique to their locations, and to restore local salt industries, as well as other local businesses that were negatively affected by the passing of the ASIN Law.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA**  
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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<sup>2</sup> The vanishing traditions of salt making (<https://inquirerkitchen.com/2020/09/14/the-vanishing-traditions-of-salt-making/>)

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

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**REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8172, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT PROMOTING SALT**  
**IODIZATION NATIONWIDE AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES’**

*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 "ASIN Law Repeal Act."

**SECTION 2. *Repeal.*** – Republic Act Numbered Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Two (R.A. No. 8172), otherwise known as “An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)” is hereby repealed.

**SECTION 3. *Effect on Other Issuances.*** – The Implementing Rules and Regulations for Republic Act No. 8172, and DOH Circular No. 96-04 are hereby repealed. All other laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction, and other issuances, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby likewise repealed.

**SECTION 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*