

ACT TO REGULATE THE RETAIL BUSINESS

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1180, June 19, 1954

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

SECTION 1. No person who is not a citizen of the Philippines and no association, partnership, or corporation the capital of which is not wholly owned by citizens of the Philippines, shall engage directly or indirectly in the retail business: Provided, That a person who is not a citizen of the Philippines, or an association, partnership, or corporation not wholly owned by citizens of the Philippines, which is actually engaged in the said business on May fifteen, nineteen hundred and fifty-four, shall be entitled to continue to engage therein, unless its license is forfeited in accordance herewith, until his death or voluntary retirement from said business, in the case of a natural person, and for a period of ten years from the date of the approval of this Act or until the expiration of the term of the association or partnership or of the corporate existence of the corporation, whichever event comes first, in the case of juridical persons. Failure to renew a license to engage in retail business shall be considered voluntary retirement.

Nothing contained in this Act shall in any way impair or abridge whatever rights may be granted to citizens and juridical entities of the United States of America under Executive Agreement signed on July fourth, nineteen hundred and forty-six, between that country and the Republic of the Philippines.

The license of any person who is not a citizen of the Philippines and of any association, partnership or corporation not wholly owned by citizens of the Philippines to engage in retail business, shall be forfeited for any violation of any provision of laws on nationalization, economic control, weights and measures, and labor and other laws relating to trade, commerce and industry.

No license shall be issued to any person who is not a citizen of the Philippines and to any association, partnership or corporation not wholly owned by citizens of the Philippines, actually engaged in the retail business to establish or open additional stores or branches for retail business.

SEC. 2. Every person who is not a citizen of the Philippines and every association, partnership or corporation not wholly owned by citizens of the Philippines, engaged in the retail business, shall, within ninety days after the approval of this Act and within the first fifteen days of January every year thereafter, present for registration with the municipal or city treasurer a verified statement containing the names, addresses, and nationality of the owners, partners or stockholders, the nature of the retail business it is engaged in, the amount of its assets and liabilities, the names of its principal officials, and such other related data as may be required by the Secretary of Commerce and Industry.

SEC. 3. In case of death of a person who is not a citizen of the Philippines and who is entitled to engage in retail business under the provisions of this Act, his or her heir, administrator or executor is entitled to continue with such retail business only for the purpose of liquidation for a period of not more than six months after such death.

SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the term "retail business" shall mean any act, occupation or calling of habitually selling direct to the general public merchandise, commodities or goods for consumption, but shall not include:

- a manufacturer, processor, laborer or worker selling to the general public the products manufactured, processed or produced by him if his capital does not exceed five thousand pesos, or

- a farmer or agriculturist selling the product of his farm.

SEC. 5. Every license to engage in retail business issued in favor of any citizen of the Philippines or of any association, partnership or corporation wholly owned by citizens of the Philippines shall be conclusive evidence of ownership by such citizen, association, partnership or corporation of the business for which the license was issued, except as against the Government or the State.

SEC. 6. Any violation of this Act shall be punished imprisonment for not less than three years and not re than five years and by a fine of not less than three housand pesos and not more than five thousand pesos the case of associations, partnerships or corporations, the penalty shall be imposed upon its partners, president, directors, manager, and other officers responsible for the violation. If the offender is not a citizen of the Philippines, he shall be deported immediately after service of sentence. If the offender is a public officer or employee, he shall, In addition to the penalty prescribed herein, be dismissed from the public service, perpetually disenfranchised, and perpetually disqualified from holding any public office.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved, June 19, 1954.

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