



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9105

BY REPRESENTATIVES SUANSING (E.), SALON, ROMERO, ABAYON, AGLIPAY-VILLAR, ALEJANO, CUEVA, CHIPECO, PANGANIBAN, ALONTE, DALIPE, LAZATIN, MARCOLETA, AGGABAO, SALO, PINEDA, SIAO, HERRERA-DY, VILLAFUERTE, LOPEZ (B.), BELARO, GARBIN, MONTORO, CAMPOS, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, LEE, SY-ALVARADO, EUSEBIO, MARIÑO, VILLARIN, BOLILIA, MARQUEZ, SAGARBARRIA, SARMIENTO (E.M.), MADRONA, BERTIZ, DIMAPORO (M.K.), DEL ROSARIO, MATUGAS, DUAVIT, ACOSTA, CHAVEZ, FUENTEBELLA, CRISOLOGO, MANGAOANG, ARCILLAS, MACEDA, BORDADO, RODRIGUEZ (M.), BARBERS, ROQUE (H.), TAMBUNTING, DE VENECIA, VIOLAGO, DE JESUS, MANALO, TING, PADUANO, CALIXTO-RUBIANO, ESTRELLA, HOFER, SANDOVAL, LOBREGAT, GONZALEZ, NIETO, PIMENTEL, LIMKAICHONG, DATOL, ACOSTA-ALBA, PICO, SILVERIO, CASTRO (F.H.), ROA-PUNO, ORTEGA (V.N.), PALMA, NOEL, GONZALES (A.P.), SAVELLANO, GARIN (R.), GARCIA (J.E.), FORTUN, BRAVO (A.), GULLAS, TEJADA, ZUBIRI, GONZALES (A.D.), GO (M.), CARI, TREÑAS, FERNANDO, NUÑEZ-MALANYAON, TUPAS, BATAOIL, CUARESMA, ROMUALDO, CALDERON AND VERGARA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 1262

AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALL METROPOLITAN AREAS NATIONWIDE TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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
2 “Integrated Urban Agriculture Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall ensure that
4 the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and to
5 be free from hunger is guaranteed and protected. As such,
6 the achievement of self-sufficiency and sustainability in food
7 production is adopted as a primary State policy. Towards this
8 end, the State shall develop climate-resilient communities
9 in the metropolitan areas through the promotion of modern,
10 appropriate, cost-effective, and environmentally safe agriculture
11 technologies to ensure food security, promote a healthy citizenry
12 and an improved quality of life for urban dwellers.

13 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

14 (a) *Food security* refers to a situation wherein food is
15 available and affordable at all times, and where all people have
16 access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy
17 and active life;

18 (b) *Integrated urban agriculture* refers to the development
19 paradigm that encompasses principles, management technologies,
20 and the policies relating to the practice and application of
21 agricultural production of food and goods in urban areas; and

22 (c) *Vertical farming* refers to the method of farming that
23 is brought to the urban space by employing concepts of indoor
24 agriculture in skyscrapers and other modern buildings.

25 SEC. 4. *Scope.* – This Act shall apply to all urban spaces
26 such as idle, government or private lots or buildings, available

1 land resources in State or private universities and colleges suitable
2 for growing crops and raising poultry, livestock and aquaculture.

3 SEC. 5. *National Agriculture and Fisheries Council.* – The
4 National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAF Council) is hereby
5 mandated to monitor and ensure the proper implementation of
6 this Act. The Council shall be composed of the following members:

7 (a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
8 (Chairperson);

9 (b) Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management;

10 (c) Secretary of the Department of Education;

11 (d) Secretary of the Department of Environment and
12 Natural Resources;

13 (e) Secretary of the Department of Health;

14 (f) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local
15 Government;

16 (g) Secretary of the Department of Finance;

17 (h) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment;

18 (i) Secretary of the Department of Public Works and
19 Highways;

20 (j) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology;

21 (k) Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and
22 Development;

23 (l) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry;

24 (m) Secretary of the Department of Transportation;

25 (n) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education;

26 (o) Chairperson of the National Anti-Poverty Commission;

1 (p) Director General of the National Economic and
2 Development Authority;

3 (q) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills
4 Development Authority;

5 (r) Chairperson of the Presidential Commission for the Urban
6 Poor;

7 (s) Representative from the Academe;

8 (t) Representative from the private sector who has the
9 expertise in urban agriculture and vertical farming; and

10 (u) Lead Convenor of the Urban Agriculture Practitioners
11 Network of the Philippines.

12 Cabinet secretaries who are members of the Council may
13 designate their duly authorized and permanent representatives
14 whose ranks shall in no case be lower than assistant secretary.

15 *SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the NAF Council.* – The
16 NAF Council shall have the following additional powers and
17 functions:

18 (a) Develop a unified strategy to link agricultural production
19 to nutrition programs;

20 (b) Conduct policy studies, program monitoring and
21 comprehensive researches on food production, sustainable food
22 systems and the country's urban agriculture agenda;

23 (c) Ensure that department resources are used to effectively
24 encourage agricultural production in urban communities;

25 (d) Provide technical assistance in support of vertical
26 farming, backyard food production and community gardening

1 programs consistent with the goals of poverty reduction, food
2 security and healthy eating habits in urban communities; and

3 (e) Submit periodic reports and policy recommendations to
4 Congress for the proper implementation of this Act.

5 *SEC. 7. Inclusion of Urban Agriculture in the Educational*
6 *System.* – Urban agriculture shall be integrated in the academic
7 curriculum for elementary, secondary and tertiary level students
8 of both public and private academic institutions offering courses
9 in Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other
10 subjects related to agriculture. A course curriculum on gardening
11 shall be developed and included in the regular curriculum of
12 elementary and secondary education. Instructional materials shall
13 likewise be developed.

14 For universities and colleges, urban agriculture shall
15 form part of the required period of time spent by students in
16 the National Service Training Program or the Citizens' Military
17 Training. A plan for the utilization or maximization of space
18 occupied by schools shall be formulated specifically for urban
19 agriculture purposes.

20 *SEC. 8. Responsibility of Local Government Units.* – The
21 local government units (LGUs), in coordination with the NAF
22 Council, shall formulate policies on the practice of urban
23 agriculture and on utilizing urban spaces, unused spaces and
24 idle lands, consistent with its existing policy on the Comprehensive
25 Land Use Plan (CLUP) and zoning ordinances: *Provided*, That
26 spaces for urban agriculture shall not be prime lots or areas
27 suitable for investments. The LGUs in cities and urban areas

1 are required to enact local legislation institutionalizing urban
2 agriculture as a regular component in the annual appropriations
3 of the LGUs.

4 All homeowners' associations, neighborhood associations,
5 community associations, people's organizations, and local
6 business establishments shall be encouraged by the LGU to
7 participate in urban agriculture activities.

8 *SEC. 9. Information and Education Campaign.* – In order
9 to raise public awareness, provide information and engage the
10 public to participate in activities and projects on urban agriculture,
11 the NAF Council shall engage the assistance of the Philippine
12 Information Agency, through the Public Information Office in
13 each city and municipality, to undertake a nationwide information
14 campaign.

15 *SEC. 10. Appropriations.* – The funds necessary to carry out
16 the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against
17 the current year's budget of the Department of Agriculture.
18 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued
19 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
20 General Appropriations Act.

21 *SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within
22 six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the NAF Council,
23 in coordination with the concerned agencies, shall promulgate
24 the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement
25 the provisions of this Act.

26 *SEC. 12. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part
27 hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of

1 the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
2 valid and subsisting.

3 SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees
4 or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative
5 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with
6 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended
7 accordingly.

8 SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
9 days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general
10 circulation.

Approved,

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