

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 JUL -7 P2 :43

SENATE
S.B. No. 112

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS THROUGH
INTEGRATING INSTRUCTIONAL GARDENS IN PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULA AND PROMOTING THE USE OF
URBAN AGRICULTURE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The prevalent consumption of instant food mixes and other processed food, which specifically cater to the palate and food sensitivities of the young, reflects the lack of regard for proper diet and nutrition for children, this only shows that child nutrition is marginalized and is least understood by a majority of our population.

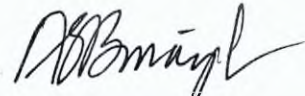
Pursuant to Section 15, Article II of the Constitution which provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, it is incumbent upon the State to provide programs for encouraging awareness in proper nutrition and at the same time address malnutrition. This is best done during childhood and taught in schools.

The establishment of vegetable gardens in schools can be an effective tool for hunger mitigation and serve as effective teaching school for children to learn the art and science of planting as well as the benefits gained from it.

This bill seeks to establish instructional gardens in elementary and secondary schools, whether private or public, not only as a means to alleviate hunger but to serve as a tool to teach the fundamental concepts about nutrition, the cultural and historical aspects of our food supply, as well as the rudiments of planting, considered to be a very useful skill for citizens of an agricultural country like the Philippines.

Also, this bill seeks to promote the use of urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's urban areas and in other areas in the country where such farming methods are suited, as an intervention mechanism for further addressing food security concerns of the country.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MLNB', is positioned above the printed name.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY



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1 **AN ACT ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS THROUGH**
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3 **SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULA AND PROMOTING THE USE OF**
4 **URBAN AGRICULTURE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
7 *Congress assembled:*

8
9 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Instructional Gardens*
10 *and Urban Agriculture Act.*"

11
12 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall be the policy of the State to promote
13 food security, food quality, improved health, fight hunger and malnutrition, poverty
14 alleviation, improved quality of environment through greening, reduction in pollution,
15 and creation of savings in household expenditures. Towards this end, key reforms for
16 the development of appropriate, cost-effective, and environmentally safe agricultural
17 practices are hereby encouraged in order to ensure the food security of the country.

18
19 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
20 be defined as follows:

21
22 (a) "*Instructional Gardens*" refer to a program of instruction in all
23 elementary and secondary schools, where knowledge and skills, not only
24 in urban agriculture and vertical farming, but in agricultural food
25 production in general, are imparted to school children through relevant
26 theories and actual engagement in agricultural cultivation/production.
27 The theories and actual production shall revolve around the concepts of
28 composting, waste management techniques, healthy and nutritious farm
29 produce, sustainable farm practices, among others.

30
31 (b) "*Urban Agriculture*" refers to the practice of cultivating, processing and
32 distributing of food in or around a village, town or city. Urban agriculture
33 also involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and
34 horticulture.
35

1 (c) "*Vertical Farming*" refers to the method of farming that is brought to the
2 urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in
3 skyscrapers and other modern buildings.
4

5 SEC. 4. *Promotion of and Comprehensive Research on Urban Agriculture and*
6 *Vertical Farming.* - For purposes of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the
7 Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology
8 (DOST) are hereby mandated to promote the use of urban agriculture and vertical
9 farming in the country's urban areas and in other areas in the country where such
10 farming methods are suited, as an intervention mechanism for further addressing food
11 security concerns of the country.
12

13 Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either the
14 national government or local governments or available land resources in state
15 universities and colleges shall be considered for growing crops, raising livestock, and
16 producing food using the said methods.
17

18 SEC. 5. *Institutionalization of Instructional Gardens in School Curricula.* -
19 Instructional Gardens program shall be integrated in the academic curricula for
20 elementary and secondary level students of both public and private academic
21 institutions, particularly in subjects in agriculture, practical arts, home economics,
22 and/or other related subjects.
23

24 The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the DA, shall
25 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Section
26 within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.
27

28 SEC. 6. *Local Government Units' Participation.* - Local government units (LGUs)
29 shall formulate a policy on the practice of urban agriculture and vertical farming,
30 utilizing unused spaces and idle lands.
31

32 This shall require the enactment of local legislation institutionalizing urban
33 agriculture in all levels of the LGU. LGUs shall also grant necessary incentives to their
34 constituents who actively participate in urban farming activities.
35

36 SEC. 7. *Tax Incentives.* - All allocations of grants, endowments, donations, or
37 contributions and technical assistance provided by private individuals or corporations
38 to schools for the promotion and implementation of Institutional Gardens in the school
39 curricula, as certified by the DepEd, shall be exempt from taxes and duties.
40

41 SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* Within six (6) months from
42 the effectivity of this Act, the DA and the DOST shall promulgate the necessary IRR
43 to implement the provisions of this Act.
44

45 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
46 this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the
47 DA, DOST, and the DepEd.

1 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force
3 and effect.

4
5 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
6 presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or
7 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8
9 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
10 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official
11 Gazette.

Approved,