

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7754

BY REPRESENTATIVES BARZAGA, BASCUG, PLAZA, VILLARICA, ROMUALDO, VILLANUEVA, CARI,
TAN (K.M.) AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 473

AN ACT
REVERTING FISH PONDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED OR
ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS TO FOREST
LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“REVISED FORESTRY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 43 of Presidential Decree No. 705, otherwise known
2 as the “Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines” is hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 “SECTION 43. *Swamplands and Mangrove Forests.* –

5 “xxx

6 “Mangrove and other swamps released to the Bureau of Fisheries and
7 Aquatic Resources for fishpond purposes which are not utilized, or which
8 have been abandoned for [five (5)] THREE (3) years from the date of such
9 release shall revert to the category of forest land AND SHALL BE
10 IMMEDIATELY REHABILITATED AND REFORESTED.

11
12 “THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
13 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL JOINTLY SET
14 GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING ABANDONED, UNDEVELOPED,
15 OR UNDERUTILIZED FISHPONDS COVERED BY FISHPOND LEASE

1 AGREEMENTS (FLAS) WHICH SHALL BE REVERTED INTO FOREST
2 LAND AND REHABILITATED.”

3 **SEC. 2.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations
4 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
5 modified accordingly.

6 **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
7 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

 Approved,