



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6050

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARIN (S.), ESCUDERO, HERRERA-DY, AUMENTADO, SY-ALVARADO, SARMIENTO (C.), AGLIPAY, DIMAPORO (F.), QUIBRANZA-DIMAPORO, MANDANAS, GOMEZ, SARMIENTO (M.), AGYAO, ALCOVER, ALMONTE, BELMONTE (V.), CABILAO YAMBAO, CANONIGO, FERRIOL, FORTUNO, GARBIN, LANETE, MERCADO (H.), ORTEGA (F.), PAEZ, PALMONES, PANCHO, PANGANDAMAN (S.), PANOTES, PAYUYO, RODRIGUEZ (M.), ALVAREZ (M.), ANGARA, ANTONINO, ARNAIZ, CABALUNA, CATAMCO, DEL ROSARIO (A.A.), GARAY, GONZALEZ, GUANLAO, MARCOLETA, NAVA, PADILLA, PANGANDAMAN (M.), PING-AY, RAMOS, RELAMPAGOS, SACDALAN, SAMBAR, TIENG, TOMAWIS, VELASCO, MENDOZA (M.), UNGAB, RODRIGUEZ (R.), MERCADO (R.), MELLANA, GO (A.) AND JALOSIOS (C.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2063

AN ACT ESTABLISHING RURAL FARM SCHOOLS AS ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION 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 "Rural Farm
2 Schools Act".

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* -- It is hereby declared to be the
4 policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality

1 education at all levels and take appropriate steps to make such education
2 *accessible to all*. Further to this, the State shall establish, maintain and support
3 a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs
4 of the people and society and encourage nonformal, informal and indigenous
5 learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent and out-of-school study
6 programs particularly those that respond to community needs.

7 The State shall likewise promote sustainable agricultural productivity
8 and rural development by empowering the human capital in the countryside
9 through access to avenues of learning suited to the needs and realities of the
10 *rural agricultural communities*.

11 In furtherance of the principles of social justice and social equity, the
12 State shall provide the necessary support to the beneficiaries of the
13 Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) including, but not limited
14 to, the provision of access to a broad range of educational opportunities to their
15 children.

16 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the
17 following terms shall be defined as follows:

18 (a) *Alternative delivery mode* refers to the nontraditional education
19 program recognized by the Department of Education (DepED) which applies a
20 flexible learning philosophy and a curricular delivery program that includes
21 nonformal and informal sources of knowledge and skills. An alternative
22 *delivery mode* may include the use of facilitator-aided and interactive
23 self-instructional print and audio-based learning materials, video tapes,
24 face-to-face structured learning groups, semi-structured and unstructured
25 discussions, one-on-one tutorials, study groups and self-learning groups,
26 demonstration sessions, home visits, mentoring and remediation.

27 (b) *Rural farm school* refers to a parallel learning system and an
28 alternative delivery mode of secondary education. It provides for facilitative

1 and experiential learning on the core subjects of the secondary education
2 curriculum with focus on agri-fisheries, designed to address the needs of
3 children in rural, agricultural or fishing communities.

4 (c) *Public rural farm school* refers to a rural farm school operated by
5 the government or any of its political subdivisions.

6 (d) *Private rural farm school* refers to a rural farm school operated by
7 a private entity, a nongovernment organization or a farm association. This is a
8 school which is not funded by the government or any of its political
9 subdivisions.

10 (e) *Tutors* refer to facilitators or instructors who comprise the teaching
11 staff of the rural farm school. They are specialists in their own fields of
12 endeavor and who facilitate the educative process.

13 (f) *CARP beneficiaries* refer to farmers or their kin who had received
14 Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) or Emancipation Patents under
15 Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, otherwise known as the “Comprehensive
16 Agrarian Reform Law of 1988”.

17 (g) *Agrarian reform community* refers to a barangay or cluster of
18 barangays where a critical mass of agrarian reform beneficiaries is situated.

19 (h) *Farm entrepreneurship* refers to the intermingling of finance,
20 business and agriculture in setting into operation or motion a business venture
21 involved in the production of agricultural commodities or enterprises.

22 **SEC. 4. Establishment of Rural Farm Schools.** – Rural farm schools
23 are hereby established to provide an alternative delivery mode of secondary
24 education. The public rural farm schools shall be free from tuition and other
25 school fees, except those fees which may be allowed by the DepED. Private
26 rural farm schools shall set a minimal tuition and other fees subject to the
27 approval of the DepED: *Provided, That* the relatives of CARP beneficiaries

1 up to the third degree of consanguinity in the descending line shall be exempt
2 from payment of the fees.

3 The DepED shall institutionalize high standards of quality assurance in
4 rural farm schools. These standards shall involve prescribing guidelines and
5 policies on the operation and management of rural farm schools as well as
6 basic curricular content to ensure the credibility and academic integrity of rural
7 farm schools.

8 Within one (1) year upon the formulation of the implementing rules and
9 regulations of this Act, the DepED shall encourage the establishment of at
10 least one (1) public rural farm school in every province in the country.

11 SEC. 5. *Implementing Agency.* – The DepED, through the Bureau of
12 Secondary Education, shall regulate the organization and operation of the rural
13 farm schools and the implementation of its curriculum as prescribed herein.

14 SEC. 6. *Curriculum and Teaching Methodology.* – The curriculum
15 of the rural farm school shall follow the core secondary education curriculum
16 of the DepED with add-on courses focused on Agri-Fishery Arts.

17 The last two (2) academic years in the rural farm school educational
18 system shall focus on integrative learning across all subject disciplines in the
19 curriculum with emphasis on farm entrepreneurship theory and practice and its
20 promotion as a tool in cultivating local entrepreneurs, revitalizing rural
21 economies and repopulating rural communities.

22 The rural farm schools shall apply a flexible learning philosophy which
23 may include an alternative delivery mode as recognized by the DepED.

24 SEC. 7. *Eligible Students.* – Graduates of elementary school
25 education, regardless of age, shall be eligible to enroll in the rural farm schools
26 for their secondary education.

1 Relatives of the beneficiaries of the CARP up to the third degree of
2 consanguinity in the descending line shall be given priority in admission when
3 the rural farm school cannot accommodate all of those applying for enrollment.

4 SEC. 8. *The School Head.* – Every rural farm school shall have a
5 school head to oversee its operations and management. The school head shall
6 be tasked to facilitate the tutors' participation in professional development
7 activities including technical skills training and extension services by the
8 DepED, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Agrarian
9 Reform (DAR). The school head shall also ensure that the curricular program
10 is properly implemented and sufficient and adequate educational resources are
11 available and accessible to the students.

12 SEC. 9. *The Tutors.* – The tutors of the rural farm school shall be
13 specialists in their fields of endeavor. They shall act as teachers, guidance
14 counselors, rural developers, livelihood project proponents, marketing
15 specialists and/or project consultants. They shall establish a working
16 partnership with the parents by conducting parent-tutor dialogues and parent
17 workshops.

18 SEC. 10. *Salary of Rural Farm School Personnel.* – Public rural
19 farm school personnel shall receive a monthly basic salary based on the
20 compensation prescribed under the Salary Standardization Law, as amended, in
21 addition to other benefits prescribed by law.

22 In the case of private rural farm school personnel, they shall receive the
23 salary and other benefits prescribed under the Labor Code of the Philippines.

24 SEC. 11. *Skills Training and Extension Support.* – The DepED, the
25 DAR, the DA, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
26 (TESDA) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) shall provide
27 continuous technical skills training and provision of extension materials
28 including, but not limited to, books, student workbooks, teaching session

1 guides and other materials or equipment on the subjects offered, and other
2 extension services to the tutors of rural farm schools.

3 SEC. 12. *Accreditation of Rural Farm Schools.* – The DepED shall
4 set the requirements for accreditation of rural farm schools and accredit those
5 that shall meet the prescribed requirements. Rural farm schools may not
6 operate unless accredited by the DepED.

7 The DepED may withdraw or downgrade the accreditation of a rural
8 farm school if it fails to maintain the standards set for its accreditation.

9 All accredited private rural farm schools, their mentors or facilitators
10 and students shall be eligible for subsidies under Republic Act No. 6728,
11 as amended by Republic Act No. 8545, or the “Expanded Government
12 Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act”.

13 SEC. 13. *School Monitoring and Evaluation.* – The DepED shall
14 conduct regular monitoring and evaluation to determine continuing compliance
15 with the requirements on accreditation status of the rural farm schools and to
16 determine whether or not the rural farm schools adhere to the standards of
17 quality assurance prescribed by the DepED.

18 SEC. 14. *Tax Exemption.* – Any donation, contribution, bequest or
19 grant which may be made to a rural farm school duly accredited under Section
20 12 of this Act shall be exempt from the donor’s tax and the same shall be
21 considered as allowable deduction from the gross income in the computation of
22 the income tax of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National
23 Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended: *Provided,* That the rural
24 farm school has likewise been accredited by the Philippine Council for NGO
25 Certification (PCNC).

26 SEC. 15. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Education shall
27 immediately include in the Department’s program the operationalization of the

1 public rural farm schools, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
2 General Appropriations Act.

3 SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)
4 days after the effectivity of this Act, the DepED, in consultation with the DA,
5 the DAR, the TESDA and the ATI, shall formulate the rules and regulations
6 needed for the effective implementation of this Act.

7 SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is
8 held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not
9 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

10 SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws or parts thereof, decrees,
11 orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
12 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13 SEC. 19. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
14 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,

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