CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES FIFTEENTH CONGRESS Third Regular Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 1137

BY REPRESENTATIVES MERCADO (R.), VILLAFUERTE, ANTONINO, ENVERGA, RODRIGUEZ (M.), SACDALAN, LAPUS, TEVES, PALMONES, ARNAIZ, GATCHALIAN AND OCAMPO

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FLORICULTURE GARDEN IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. — There is hereby authorized to be established a floriculture garden of not less than five thousand (5,000) square meters, preferably one (1) hectare or more, in every municipality of the Province of Southern Leyte.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall provide the said floriculture gardens with technical assistance, and the latter shall also arrange to provide the said floriculture gardens with the initial core of planting materials of different types of flowering and ornamental plants.

The floriculture gardens shall be located in such appropriate locations suitable for the growing and processing of flowering and ornamental plants.

1 Moreover, it should also be located in an area where its products can be displayed and sold to local buyers.

- SEC. 2. Powers and Functions of the Floriculture Gardens. The floriculture gardens established in every municipality as herein specified shall have the following powers and functions:
- (a) Establish experimental plantations of different flowering and ornamental plants, including orchids;
- (b) Establish a center within the garden where the plants can be processed, package and sold, or where seeds, seedlings or cutting could be dispersed to other barangays;
- (c) Create information programs and seminars that will educate the local populace about the floriculture industry and how they can engage in the flower or ornamental plants business; and
- (d) Provide technical and other advisory services to those already engaged or are interested in engaging in the floriculture industry.
- SEC. 3. Appropriations. The cost of acquiring the land, constructing the appropriate building thereon and the complement of equipment and machinery required to start the operation of the floriculture gardens shall be provided by the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, in cooperation with the respective municipalities in which said floriculture gardens are to be established. Acquisition of the land site for the floriculture gardens may also be acquired by donation, bequeath, expropriation or through lease of usufruct.

Thereafter, such sums as shall be necessary to operate and conduct the training programs and other projects of the floriculture gardens shall be incorporated in the Annual General Appropriations Ordinances of the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte and its respective municipalities.

Other funding support for the floriculture gardens may be provided from allocations of funds that may be provided by other executive departments of the national government or any of its agencies and/or from such financial assistance as may be arranged by the District Representative in Congress or other legislators. Grants from local or foreign sources may also be obtained.

SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,