

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



'22 NOV -3 P5 :44

SENATE

S. No. 1458

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**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

In a non-commissioned survey conducted by the Social Weather Station for the Second Quarter of 2022, 11.6 percent of Filipino families, or an estimated 2.9 million families experienced hunger at least once in the past three months and with noted increase in Metro Manila and Visayas. Hence, to further ensure food security, this measure aims to promote urban agriculture.

Urban farming, as enshrined in this bill, is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around a village, town or city which could also involve animal agriculture, aquaculture and agroforestry, among others. It is one way to promote food security as it will provide citizens easy access to several agricultural products right within their cities and/or communities. Urban agriculture and vertical farming shall be integrated in the academic curriculum, i.e. focusing on its practical applications, for basic and secondary level students of both public and private education institutions offering courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture.

It is the hope of this measure that the Philippines benefit from this form of agriculture in the same way that other countries that implement urban farming have. The establishment of instructional gardens in educational institutions can be an effective tool for hunger mitigation and serve as an effective teaching tool to learn the basics of agriculture.

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

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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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 "*Instructional Garden*
2 *and Urban Agriculture Act of 2022*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall be the policy of the State to promote
4 food security, food quality, improved health, fight hunger and malnutrition, promote
5 poverty alleviation, improved quality of environment through greening, reduction in
6 pollution, and creation of savings in household expenditures. Towards this end, key
7 reforms for the development of appropriate, cost-effective, and environmentally safe
8 agricultural practices are hereby encouraged in order to ensure the food security of
9 the country.

10 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms
11 shall be defined as follows:

12 (a) *Instructional Gardens* refer to a program of instruction in all elementary
13 and secondary schools, where knowledge and skills, not only in urban
14 agriculture and vertical farming, but in agricultural food production in
15 general, are imparted to school children through relevant theories and
16 actual engagement in agricultural cultivation and production. These

1 theories and actual production shall revolve around the concepts of
2 composting, waste management techniques, healthy and nutritious farm
3 produce, sustainable farm practices, among others.

4 (b) *Urban Agriculture* refers to the practice of cultivating, processing and
5 distributing food in or around a village, town or city. Urban agriculture
6 also involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agroforestry, and
7 horticulture.

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

11 *Sec. 4. Promotion of and Comprehensive Research on Urban Agriculture and*
12 *Vertical Farming.* – For purposes of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the
13 Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Education (DepEd) are hereby
14 mandated to promote the use of urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country’s
15 urban areas and in other areas in the country where such farming methods are suited,
16 as an intervention mechanism for further addressing food security concerns of the
17 country.

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

22 *Sec. 5. Institutionalization of Instructional Gardens in School Curricula.* –
23 Instructional Gardens program shall be integrated in the academic curricula for
24 elementary and secondary level students of both public and private academic
25 institutions, particularly in subjects in Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics,
26 and/or other related subjects.

27 The DepEd, in coordination with the DA, shall promulgate the necessary rules
28 and regulations for the implementation of this Section within three (3) months from
29 the effectivity of this Act.

30 *Sec. 6. Local Government Units’ Participation.* – Local government units (LGUs)
31 shall formulate a policy on the practice of urban agriculture and vertical farming,
32 utilizing unused spaces and idle lands. This shall require the enactment of local

1 legislation institutionalizing urban agriculture and vertical farming, utilizing unused
2 spaces and idle lands. This shall require the enactment of local legislation
3 institutionalizing urban agriculture in all levels of the LGU. The LGUs shall also grant
4 necessary incentives to their constituents who actively participate in urban farming
5 activities.

6 *Sec. 7. Tax Incentives.* – All allocations of grants, endowments, donations, or
7 contributions and technical assistance provided by private individuals or corporations
8 to schools for the promotion and implementation of Institutional Gardens in the school
9 curricula, as certified by the DepEd, shall be exempt from taxes and duties.

10 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within three (3) months
11 from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and the DA shall promulgate the necessary
12 IRR to implement the provisions of this Act

13 *Sec. 9. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
14 this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of
15 DepEd.

16 *Sec. 10. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
18 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

19 *Sec. 11. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
20 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary
21 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or
22 amended accordingly.

23 *Sec. 12. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
25 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,