



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 11186

BY REPRESENTATIVES BORDADO, DALIPE, CAGAS, TUTOR, CO (E.), ACHARON, CELESTE, REGENCIA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, UNGAB, PANCHO, CRUZ (R.), BULUT-BEGTANG, YAP (C.T.), SINGSON (R.V.), ACIDRE, QUIMBO, VIOLAGO, GARCIA (M.A.), RODRIGUEZ (R.), ROMULO, SALO, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), FRESNEDI, GARCIA (A.) AND HERNANDEZ

**AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF THE AGRICULTURE PROFESSION
IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL
REGULATORY BOARD FOR AGRICULTURISTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

**ARTICLE I
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES,
AND DEFINITION OF TERMS**

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Agriculturists Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the importance of registered agriculturists in nation-building and development. Hence, it shall develop and nurture competent, ethical, globally competitive, and well-rounded registered agriculturists who shall observe the highest standards of excellence and whose professionalism shall be fostered through the administration of transparent, credible, and relevant licensure examinations, a system of registration, and continuing professional development programs and activities.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act provides for:

- (a) The examination, registration, and licensure of agriculture practitioners;
- (b) The supervision, control, and regulation of the practice of the agriculture profession in the Philippines;

- 1 (c) The development and upgrading of the Bachelor of Science (BS) in
2 Agriculture curriculum;
- 3 (d) The development of the professional competence of registered
4 agriculturists through Continuing Professional Development (CPD); and
- 5 (e) Integration of the agriculture profession through membership of registered
6 agriculturists in an accredited integrated professional organization.

7 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- 8 (a) *Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)* refers to a
9 professional organization accredited by the Professional Regulatory
10 Board of Agriculture and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC),
11 mandated under this Act to integrate all registered agriculturists into one
12 national organization wherein membership is automatic and mandatory;
- 13 (b) *Agriculture* refers to the art, science, ethics, management, and
14 entrepreneurship in the production, establishment, processing,
15 distribution, and marketing of crop, livestock, and poultry commodities,
16 along with soil management and mechanisms to mitigate the effects of
17 climate change on the said commodities;
- 18 (c) *Agriculture-related degrees* refer to the courses that have been authorized
19 and defined by the Board for purposes of qualifying for the agriculturists
20 licensure examination and registration without examination as
21 agriculturists, such as BS in Agriculture, BS in Agricultural and Applied
22 Economics, BS in Agribusiness Management, BS in Agricultural
23 Biotechnology and BS in Agricultural Chemistry;
- 24 (d) *Practice of the agriculture profession* refers to all activities, acts, services,
25 or pursuits performed by registered agriculturists as herein prescribed or
26 specified; and
- 27 (e) *Registered agriculturist* refers to a person who has been issued a
28 Certificate of Registration (COR) and Professional Identification Card
29 (PIC) to practice the agriculture profession.

1 **ARTICLE II**

2 **PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

3 **SEC. 5. *Creation and Composition.*** – A Professional Regulatory Board of
4 Agriculture, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created under the
5 administrative supervision and control of the PRC. The Board shall be composed of a
6 chairperson and five (5) members. Each member shall represent one of the six (6) fields
7 of specialization provided in Section 14, Article III of this Act. The President of the
8 Philippines shall appoint the chairperson and members of the Board from the two (2)
9 recommendees for each position submitted by the PRC from a list of three (3) nominees
10 for each position submitted by the AIPO for registered agriculturists. The PRC may
11 determine other sources of nominees, including other professional organizations and
12 the academe, if there is no AIPO or in case of failure or refusal of the AIPO to submit
13 Board nominees.

14 The new Board shall be constituted within six (6) months from the effectivity of
15 this Act.

16 **SEC. 6. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members of the Board.*** – At
17 the time of their respective appointments, the members of the Board, including the
18 Chairperson, shall be:

- 19 (a) Natural-born Filipino citizens and residents of the Philippines;
20 (b) Of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime
21 involving moral turpitude;
22 (c) Members in good standing of the AIPO for registered agriculturists;
23 (d) Holders of a degree in BS in Agriculture, BS in Agricultural and Applied
24 Economics, or BS in Agribusiness Management, preferably with a Master in
25 Agriculture (MAgr), Master of Science (MS), or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
26 in any agriculture discipline obtained from a school, college, or university
27 recognized by the government: *Provided*, That each member of the Board
28 shall serve in any of the six (6) recognized fields of specialization in
29 agriculture;
30 (e) Registered agriculturist with valid COR and PIC and with at least ten (10)
31 years of relevant experience in agriculture;

- 1 (f) Not members of the faculty, whether full-time or part-time, of any school,
2 college, or university where a regular or review course in agriculture is taught
3 nor any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in such institution; and
4 (g) Not incumbent officers or trustees of the AIPO for registered agriculturists.

5 **SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of the Board.** – The Board shall have the
6 following powers and functions:

- 7 (a) Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and regulations, including the Code
8 of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Registered Agriculturists, to
9 carry out the provisions of this Act;
- 10 (b) Supervise and regulate the licensure, registration, and practice of registered
11 agriculturists;
- 12 (c) Determine and evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for issuance of
13 COR, PIC, and special temporary permit (STP);
- 14 (d) Issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the COR, PIC, and STP for a cause;
- 15 (e) Prepare and modify the questions for the examination and prescribe the
16 Tables of Specifications of the subjects for examination and relative weights;
- 17 (f) Administer the Oath of Professional;
- 18 (g) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of agriculture, adopt measures
19 for the enhancement of the profession and the maintenance of high
20 professional, technical, and ethical standards, and conduct inspection of
21 establishments where registered agriculturists practice their profession;
- 22 (h) Inspect the existing facilities of universities or colleges and evaluate the
23 qualifications of deans and faculty members offering the course or program of
24 agriculture to ensure that standards are met based on the criteria set by CHED
25 and that the skills and competencies of graduates are enhanced;
- 26 (i) Investigate violations of this Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations
27 (IRR), and the Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for registered
28 agriculturists;
- 29 (j) Issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the
30 attendance of respondents or witnesses or the production of documents
31 relative to the investigation conducted by the Board and PRC;
- 32 (k) Prepare guidelines for the CPD, in coordination with the AIPO, for registered
33 agriculturists; and

1 (l) Perform other powers, functions, and duties as may be necessary to
2 effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

3 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders, and decisions issued or
4 promulgated by the Board shall be subject to the review and approval of the PRC.
5 However, the Board's decisions, resolutions, or orders not interlocutory in an
6 administrative case shall be subject to review only on appeal.

7 **SEC. 8. Term of Office.** – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term
8 of five (5) years after appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed
9 and duly qualified: *Provided*, That members of the first Board to be appointed after the
10 approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms: the two (2) members, one
11 of whom shall be designated as chairperson, shall serve for five (5) years; two (2)
12 members shall serve for three (3) years; and the other two (2) members shall serve for
13 one (1) year.

14 Each member of the Board may only be reappointed for one full term of five (5)
15 years. A successor to a member whose term has expired shall be appointed for the full
16 term of five (5) years from the date of expiration of the term for which the predecessor
17 was appointed.

18 Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only.
19 Each member shall take an oath of office before the assumption of duties.

20 **SEC. 9. Compensation and Allowance of the Chairperson and Members of**
21 **the Board.** – The chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation and
22 allowances comparable to those obtained by the chairpersons and members of the
23 other PRC Professional Regulatory Boards.

24 **SEC. 10. Suspension and Removal of the Chairperson and Members of the**
25 **Board.** – The chairperson or member of the Board may be suspended or removed by the
26 President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the PRC for neglect of duty, abuse
27 of power, oppression, incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral, or
28 dishonorable conduct, commission, or toleration of irregularities in the conduct of
29 examination or tampering of the grades therein, or for conviction by final judgment of
30 any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, after having been allowed to defend
31 oneself in a proper administrative investigation.

1 **SEC. 15. Qualifications of Applicants for Professional Licensure**

2 **Examination.** – To be admitted to the Professional Licensure Examination for
3 Agriculturists, an applicant, at the time of filing of application, must be:

- 4 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreign country which has a policy on reciprocity
5 for the practice of the agriculture profession;
- 6 (b) A holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture or any related course from a
7 school, college, or university recognized by the government: *Provided*, That the
8 applicant has finished a minimum of thirty-six (36) units of agricultural subjects
9 required to take licensure examination for agriculture; and
- 10 (c) Of good moral character and has not been convicted of any crime involving moral
11 turpitude.

12 An incumbent holder of any agriculture position in the national, regional, or local
13 government offices or agencies, including government-owned and controlled
14 corporations, and who has been engaged in agricultural functions acceptable to the
15 Board may qualify to take the professional licensure examination for agriculturist:
16 *Provided*, That they are holders of professional civil service eligibility and must have
17 finished a minimum of thirty-six (36) units of agricultural subjects, which shall include
18 the six (6) foundation subjects.

19 **SEC. 16. Ratings in the Professional Licensure Examination.** – For an
20 examinee to pass, the examinee must obtain an average of at least seventy-five percent
21 (75%) in all subjects, with no rating below fifty percent (50%) in any subject. However,
22 if an examinee obtains a general weighted average rating of seventy-five percent (75%)
23 or higher but obtains a rating below fifty percent (50%) in any of the subjects, an
24 examinee shall be allowed to take the examination in the subject or subjects where a
25 grade below fifty percent (50%) was obtained only once in the immediately succeeding
26 licensure examination.

27 An examinee who fails to pass the examination thrice shall be required to
28 undergo a refresher course equivalent to thirty-six (36) units before the examinee shall
29 be allowed to re-take the examination.

30 The Board shall prescribe specific guidelines for the implementation of the
31 refresher course requirement.

1 **SEC. 17. Results of Examination.** – The professional licensure examination
2 results shall be released within fourteen (14) working days from the last day of the
3 examination unless otherwise extended for a valid reason.

4 **SEC. 18. Registration Without Examination.** – An applicant, upon approval of
5 the application and payment of the prescribed fees, may be registered as an agriculturist
6 without examination if, to the satisfaction of the Board, proves that an applicant:

7 (a) Is a graduate of a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture or any related baccalaureate
8 programs such as BS in Agricultural and Applied Economics, BS in
9 Agribusiness Management, BS in Agricultural Biotechnology, and BS in
10 Agricultural Chemistry from a school, college, or university established or
11 recognized by the government; and

12 (b) Has served the agriculture industry in any technical capacity from the
13 government or private sector for not less than five (5) years before the effectivity
14 of Republic Act (RA) No. 8435, otherwise known as the “Agriculture and Fisheries
15 Modernization Act of 1997.” This service shall be certified in the service record
16 if an applicant is a government employee and certified under oath by an
17 authorized official of the firm, company, or corporation if employed in the private
18 sector.

19 **SEC. 19. Oath of Profession.** – All persons qualified for registration, with or
20 without examination, shall be required to take an oath of profession before any member
21 of the Board or any government official authorized by the PRC to administer oaths prior
22 to entering into the practice of the agriculture profession.

23 **SEC. 20. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration and Professional**
24 **Identification Card.** – A COR shall be issued to a successful registrant, with or without
25 examination, subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the PRC. The COR shall bear
26 the signature of the chairperson of the PRC and the chairperson and members of the
27 Board, stamped with the official seals of the PRC and the Board, indicating that the
28 person named therein is entitled to practice the agriculture profession, with all the
29 benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto. The COR shall remain in full force and
30 effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

1 A PIC bearing the registration number and dates of issuance and expiry duly
2 signed by the chairperson of the PRC shall likewise be issued to every registrant upon
3 payment of the required fees. The PIC shall be renewed subject to compliance with the
4 prescribed requirements for such period as may be determined by the Board and the
5 PRC.

6 **SEC. 21. Refusal to Register.** – The Board shall not register and issue a COR
7 to a registrant who has been convicted by final judgment by a court of competent
8 jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or found guilty of immoral
9 or dishonorable conduct after an investigation by the Board or has been declared to be
10 of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be in writing.

11 **SEC. 22. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration,
12 Professional Identification Card, or Cancellation of Special Temporary Permit.** –
13 The Board may revoke the COR and PIC of a registered agriculturist or suspend from
14 the practice of the profession or cancel the STP for any of the causes provided in
15 Section 21 hereof or for unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, or violation of
16 any of the provisions of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics and Code of Technical
17 Standards for Registered Agriculturists after due notice and hearing to the party
18 concerned.

19 **SEC. 23. Reinstatement, Reissuance, or Replacement of Certificate of
20 Registration and Professional Identification Card.** – The Board may reinstate or
21 reissue a revoked COR after two (2) years from the date of revocation, upon petition
22 and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient. Thus, it may exempt the applicant from
23 taking another licensure examination.

24 In case of loss of the COR or PIC, the registrant shall duly prove the
25 circumstances leading to the loss. The duplicate of a lost or revoked COR or PIC shall
26 be issued in accordance with the existing rules and regulations subject to the payment
27 of the necessary and mandated dues.

28 **SEC. 24. Issuance of Special Temporary Permit.** – The Board, upon application
29 and payment of the required fees and subject to the approval of the PRC, may issue an
30 STP to a foreign registered agriculturist whose services are urgently needed due to the
31 absence or inadequacy of local registered agriculturists to promote or enhance the
32 practice of the agriculture profession in the Philippines.

1 The Board shall issue the conditions for the grant of the STP, including the
2 designation of a local understudy for every foreign agriculturist to be employed in the
3 Philippines.

4 **SEC. 25. Foreign Reciprocity.** – No foreign professional agriculturist shall be
5 admitted to the examination or be given a COR or PIC and be entitled to any of the
6 privileges provided in this Act unless the country of which the foreign professional
7 agriculturist is a citizen and specifically allows Filipino registered agriculturists to
8 practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the citizens of such foreign
9 country.

10 **ARTICLE IV**
11 **PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURE PROFESSION**

12 **SEC. 26. Scope of Practice.** – The agriculture profession involves services
13 consisting of crop and livestock and poultry production, processing, and distribution in
14 both urban and rural areas that include the following:

- 15 (a) Soil, crop, and animal health management;
- 16 (b) Consultation, evaluation, investigation, and management services requiring
17 the application of knowledge in agriculture and its components;
- 18 (c) Preparation of plans, specifications, project feasibility studies and estimates,
19 and other management services in the establishment and production of
20 crops, raising of livestock and poultry, landscape horticulture, and marketing
21 agriculture products;
- 22 (d) Conduct research projects and studies in the areas of soil resources
23 management, crop improvement, crop production, breeding of livestock and
24 poultry, and animal and plant pest and disease management;
- 25 (e) Conduct training and extension work in agricultural crop production, poultry,
26 and livestock raising;
- 27 (f) Management and marketing services related to agriculture as a business or
28 industry;
- 29 (g) Teaching agriculture subjects in schools, colleges, and universities
30 established or recognized by the government; and
- 31 (h) Employment in the private and government sectors where such employment
32 requires the knowledge and expertise of a registered agriculturist.

1 A person shall be considered in the practice of agriculture if the nature and
2 character of the work or employment requires professional knowledge in agriculture as
3 defined in Section 4(b), Article I of this Act. A person is also deemed to be in the practice
4 of the agriculture profession if that person teaches any agriculture professional subject
5 in a university, college, or school or engages in research in any agriculture-related
6 research or extension.

7 The foregoing list notwithstanding, other activities, which now or hereinafter may
8 require the application of knowledge, skills, training, and expertise in agriculture, shall
9 be deemed to be within the scope of the practice of agriculture and shall be governed
10 by the provisions of this Act.

11 **SEC. 27. Professional Title Appendage.** – Only registered agriculturists, as
12 herein defined, may append the title “Registered Agriculturist (RAgr)” to their names.

13 **SEC. 28. Prohibition Against the Unauthorized Practice of Agriculture**
14 **Profession.** – No person shall practice the agriculture profession in the Philippines or
15 offer oneself as a registered agriculturist, or use the title, word, letter, figure, or any sign
16 tending to convey the impression that one is a registered agriculturist, or advertise or
17 indicate in any manner whatsoever that one is qualified to practice the profession unless
18 the person has complied with all the requirements for registration, with or without
19 examination, and a holder of a valid COR and PIC or a valid STP duly issued by the
20 Board and the PRC.

21 **SEC. 29. Act Not Affecting Other Professionals.** – This Act shall not be
22 construed to affect or prevent the practice of any other legally recognized professions.

23 **SEC. 30. Prohibition Against Corporate Practice.** – A sole proprietor,
24 consulting firm, association, or organization may engage in the practice of the agriculture
25 profession in the Philippines: *Provided*, That it complies with the following requirements:

- 26 (a) That the firm, association, or organization is duly registered with the
27 Department of Trade and Industry, Securities and Exchange Commission, or
28 other appropriate agencies;
- 29 (b) That the majority of the officers and board members of the firm, association,
30 or organization are registered agriculturists; and

1 (c) That registered agriculturists shall carry out the practice of the consulting
2 firm, association, or organization.

3 **SEC. 31. *Employment of Agriculturists in the Government.*** – National
4 government agencies concerned with agriculture activities shall ensure that registered
5 agriculturists fill all existing technical plantilla positions.

6 Registered agriculturists shall occupy all existing technical plantilla positions of
7 provincial, city, and municipal agriculturist offices, including all agriculture technical
8 positions therein. A position is deemed to be technical when the same primarily requires
9 the professional knowledge and skills of a registered agriculturist based on the scope
10 of practice provided in Sec. 26 of this Act. All faculty positions of state universities and
11 colleges teaching agricultural courses shall be filled by registered agriculturists.

12 The Board shall assist in developing Position Classification Standards for
13 relevant government plantilla positions in collaboration with the Civil Service
14 Commission and other appropriate national and local government agencies.

15 **SEC. 32. *Employment or Engagement of Agriculturists in the Private***
16 ***Sector.*** – Private agricultural corporations shall employ or engage the services of
17 registered agriculturists. All corporate farms, golf courses, agri-tourism, agri-related
18 corporations or businesses, and other similar institutions or facilities involved in
19 agriculture shall employ or engage such number of registered agriculturists based on
20 the scope of practice of the agriculture profession.

21 All faculty members of higher educational institutions teaching agricultural
22 courses shall be registered agriculturists.

23 **SEC. 33. *Integration of the Agriculture Profession.*** – All registered
24 agriculturists shall have one (1) national organization, which the Board and the PRC
25 shall recognize as the only AIPO for registered agriculturists. A registered agriculturist
26 duly registered with the Board and the PRC shall automatically become a member of
27 the AIPO and receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment
28 of the prescribed fees and dues. Membership in the AIPO shall not bar membership in
29 other organizations of registered agriculturists.

1 Officers of government agencies and private establishments, including sole
2 proprietors, consulting firms, associations, and organizations responsible for any such
3 violation shall be held equally liable under this Act and other laws as the circumstances
4 warrant.

5 **SEC. 39. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of
6 this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

7 **SEC. 40. Transitory Provisions.** – The existing Board of Agriculture shall
8 continue to function in the interim until the new Board has been constituted pursuant to
9 this Act.

10 **SEC. 41. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Board shall issue and
11 promulgate the IRR within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act,
12 subject to the approval of the PRC and in consultation with the AIPO. The IRR shall take
13 effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a
14 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

15 **SEC. 42. Separability Clause.** – If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of
16 this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect,
17 invalidate, or impair any other part of this Act.

18 **SEC. 43. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum
19 orders, and other administrative issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the
20 provisions of this Act are hereby modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

21 **SEC. 44. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.