



S E N A T E

S. No. 2906

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1544 and 2535)

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PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE,  
GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, AND PROFESSIONAL  
REGULATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE WITH  
SENATORS REVILLA JR., ZUBIRI, PADILLA, POE, VILLAR  
(C.), DELA ROSA, LEGARDA, MARCOS, GATCHALIAN,  
VILLANUEVA, EJERCITO, HONTIVEROS, VILLAR (M.),  
BINAY, ESTRADA, PIMENTEL III, GO, TOLENTINO, AND  
CAYETANO (P.) AS AUTHORS THEREOF

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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:*

1

ARTICLE I

2

TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES,

3

AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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

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

15           (a)       The examination, registration, and licensure  
16 of agriculture practitioners;

17           (b)       The supervision, control, and regulation of  
18 the practice of the agriculture profession in the  
19 Philippines;

1 (c) The development and upgrading of the  
2 Bachelor of Science (BS) in Agriculture curriculum;

3 (d) The development of the professional  
4 competence of registered agriculturists through Continuing  
5 Professional Development (CPD); and

6 (e) The integration of the agriculture profession.

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

8 (a) *Accredited Integrated Professional*  
9 *Organization (AIPO)* refers to a professional organization  
10 accredited by the Professional Regulatory Board of  
11 Agriculture (Board) and the Professional Regulation  
12 Commission (PRC), mandated under this Act to integrate  
13 all registered agriculturists into one national organization  
14 wherein membership is automatic and mandatory;

15 (b) *Agriculture* refers to the science, art, ethics,  
16 management, and entrepreneurship in the production,  
17 establishment, processing, distribution, and marketing of  
18 crop, livestock, and poultry commodities, along with  
19 soil/land, water, and biodiversity management, to ensure

1 food and nutrition security, foster economic development,  
2 drive global trade, adapt to and mitigate the effects of  
3 climate change, and safeguard the equitable use of  
4 resources for current and future generations.

5 (c) *Agriculture-related degrees* refer to courses  
6 authorized and defined by the Board for purposes of  
7 qualifying for the agriculturists licensure examination and  
8 registration without examination as agriculturists, such as  
9 BS in Agriculture, BS in Agricultural and Applied  
10 Economics, BS in Agribusiness Management, BS in  
11 Agricultural Biotechnology, BS in Agricultural Chemistry,  
12 and other agriculture-related courses that may hereafter  
13 be identified or recognized by the Commission on Higher  
14 Education (CHED) and the Board;

15 (d) *Practice of the agriculture profession* refers to  
16 all activities, acts, services, or pursuits performed by  
17 registered agriculturists as herein prescribed or specified;  
18 and



1 submit Board nominees, the PRC may determine other  
2 sources of nominees, including other professional  
3 organizations and the academe.

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

6 SEC. 6. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members*  
7 *of the Board.* – At the time of their respective  
8 appointments, the members of the Board, including the  
9 Chairperson, must be:

10 (a) A natural-born Filipino citizen and resident of the  
11 Philippines;

12 (b) Of good moral character, not convicted of any crime  
13 involving moral turpitude;

14 (c) A member in good standing of the AIPO for  
15 registered agriculturists;

16 (d) A holder of a degree in BS in Agriculture, BS in  
17 Agricultural and Applied Economics, or BS in Agribusiness  
18 Management, preferably with a Master in Agriculture  
19 (MAgr), Master of Science (MS), or Doctor of Philosophy

1 (PhD) in any agriculture discipline obtained from a school,  
2 college, or university recognized by the government:  
3 *Provided*, That each member of the Board shall serve in  
4 any of the six (6) recognized fields of specialization in  
5 agriculture;

6 (e) A registered agriculturist with a valid COR and PIC  
7 and with at least ten (10) years of relevant experience in  
8 agriculture;

9 (f) Not a faculty member, whether full- or part-time, of  
10 any school, college, or university where a regular or review  
11 course in agriculture is taught, nor have any pecuniary  
12 interest, direct or indirect, in such institutions; and

13 (g) Not an incumbent officer or trustee of the AIPO for  
14 registered agriculturists.

15 SEC. 7. *Powers and Functions of the Professional*  
16 *Regulatory Board of Agriculture.* – The Board shall have  
17 the following powers and functions:

18 (a) Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and  
19 regulations, including the Code of Ethics and Code of  
20 Technical Standards for Registered Agriculturists, to carry

1 out the provisions of this Act;

2 (b) Supervise and regulate the licensure, registration,  
3 and practice of registered agriculturists;

4 (c) Determine and evaluate the qualifications of the  
5 applicants for issuance of COR, PIC, and special temporary  
6 permit (STP);

7 (d) Issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the COR, PIC,  
8 and STP for cause;

9 (e) Prepare and modify the questions for the  
10 examination and prescribe the Tables of Specifications of  
11 the subjects for examination and their relative weights;

12 (f) Administer the Oath of Professional;

13 (g) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of  
14 agriculture; adopt measures for the enhancement of the  
15 profession and the maintenance of high professional,  
16 technical, and ethical standards; and conduct inspection of  
17 establishments where registered agriculturists practice  
18 their profession;

19 (h) Inspect the existing facilities of universities or  
20 colleges and evaluate the qualifications of deans and



1 faculty members offering the course or program of  
2 agriculture, to ensure that standards are met based on  
3 CHED criteria, and that skills and competencies of  
4 graduates are enhanced;

5 (i) Investigate violations of this Act, its implementing  
6 rules and regulations (IRR), and the Code of Ethics and  
7 Code of Technical Standards for registered agriculturists;

8 (j) Issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena*  
9 *duces tecum* to secure the attendance of respondents or  
10 witnesses or the production of documents relative to the  
11 investigation conducted by the Board and PRC;

12 (k) Prepare guidelines for the CPD of registered  
13 agriculturists, in coordination with the AIPO; and

14 (l) Perform other powers, functions, and duties  
15 necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this  
16 Act.

17 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders,  
18 and decisions issued or promulgated by the Board shall be  
19 subject to the review and approval of the PRC. However,  
20 the Board's decisions, resolutions, or non-interlocutory

1 orders in an administrative case shall be subject to review  
2 only on appeal.

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

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

1           Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the  
2 unexpired portion of the term. Each member shall take an  
3 oath of office before assumption of duties.

4           SEC. 9. *Compensation and Allowance of the*  
5 *Chairperson and Members of the Board.* – The chairperson  
6 and members of the Board shall receive compensation and  
7 allowances comparable to those received by the  
8 chairpersons and members of the other PRC Professional  
9 Regulatory Boards as provided in the annual General  
10 Appropriations Act.

11           SEC. 10. *Suspension and Removal of the Chairperson*  
12 *and Members of the Board.* – Upon recommendation of the  
13 PRC, the chairperson or member of the Board may be  
14 suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines  
15 upon recommendation of the PRC for neglect of duty, abuse  
16 of power, oppression, incompetence, unprofessional,  
17 unethical, immoral, or dishonorable conduct, commission  
18 or tolerance of irregularities in the conduct of examination  
19 or tampering of the grades therein, or for conviction by

1 final judgment of any criminal offense involving moral  
2 turpitude, after a proper hearing in an administrative  
3 investigation.

4       SEC. 11. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its*  
5 *Records, Secretariat and Support Services.* – The Board  
6 shall be under the administrative supervision and control  
7 of the PRC. The PRC shall keep all records of the Board,  
8 including applications for examination, papers and results,  
9 minutes of deliberations, and administrative and other  
10 investigative cases involving registered agriculturists.

11       The PRC shall designate the Secretary of the Board  
12 and other support services to implement the provisions of  
13 this Act.

14       SEC. 12. *Annual Report.* – The Board shall submit an  
15 annual report to the PRC within thirty (30) days after each  
16 calendar year, stating a detailed account of its proceedings  
17 and accomplishments during the year and recommending  
18 measures to be adopted to upgrade and improve the

1 conditions and practice of the agriculture profession in the  
2 Philippines.

3 ARTICLE III

4 LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

5 SEC. 13. *Professional Licensure Examination.* –

6 Every applicant seeking to be registered as an agriculturist  
7 shall undergo a written professional licensure examination  
8 as provided in this Act. The Board shall give examinations  
9 for the practice of the agriculture profession in the  
10 Philippines at least once a year in such places and dates as  
11 the PRC may designate.

12 SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* – Applicants for

13 registration as registered agriculturists shall be given a  
14 written examination. The scope shall include the six (6)  
15 foundation subjects as follows:

- 16 (a) Crop Science;  
17 (b) Animal Science;  
18 (c) Soil Science;  
19 (d) Crop Protection;

1 (e) Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Agri-  
2 entrepreneurship; and

3 (f) Agricultural Extension and Communication.

4 The Board may re-cluster, rearrange, modify, add  
5 to, or exclude any preceding subjects as the need arises to  
6 conform to technological and agricultural modernization.

7 SEC. 15. *Qualifications of Applicants for Professional*  
8 *Licensure Examination.* – To be admitted to the  
9 Professional Licensure Examination for Agriculturists, an  
10 applicant, at the time of filing OF AN application, must  
11 be:

12 (a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreign country  
13 which has a policy on reciprocity for the practice of the  
14 agriculture profession;

15 (b) A holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture or  
16 any agriculture-related degree from a school, college, or  
17 university recognized by the government: *Provided,* That  
18 the applicant has completed coursework in agricultural  
19 subjects, including the six (6) foundation subjects. The

1 minimum number of units shall be prescribed by the Board  
2 as a prerequisite for eligibility for the agriculture licensure  
3 examination; and

4 (c) Of good moral character, not convicted of any crime  
5 involving moral turpitude.

6 An incumbent holder of any agriculture position in  
7 the national, regional, or local government offices or  
8 agencies, including government-owned and -controlled  
9 corporations, and who has been engaged in agricultural  
10 functions acceptable to the Board may qualify to take the  
11 professional licensure examination for agriculturists:  
12 *Provided*, That the same is a holder of professional civil  
13 service eligibility and has taken units of agricultural  
14 subjects, which shall include the six (6) foundation subjects  
15 and the minimum number of units prescribed by the  
16 Board.

17 SEC. 16. *Ratings in the Professional Licensure*  
18 *Examination.* – The examinee must obtain an average of at  
19 least seventy-five percent (75%) in all subjects, with no

1 rating below fifty percent (50%) in any subject: *Provided,*  
2 That in the event an examinee obtains a general weighted  
3 average rating of seventy-five percent (75%) or higher but  
4 obtains a rating below fifty percent (50%) in any of the  
5 subjects, an examinee shall be allowed to retake the  
6 examination in the subject or subjects where a rating  
7 below fifty percent (50%) was obtained.

8 An examinee who fails to pass the examination thrice  
9 shall be required to undergo a refresher course before  
10 being allowed to retake the examination.

11 The Board shall prescribe specific guidelines for the  
12 implementation of the refresher course requirement.

13 SEC. 17. *Release of the Results of the Professional*  
14 *Licensure Examination.* – The examination results shall be  
15 released within fourteen (14) working days from the last  
16 day of the examination unless otherwise extended for a  
17 valid reason.

18 SEC. 18. *Registration without Examination.* – Upon  
19 approval of the application and payment of the prescribed



1 fees, an applicant may be registered as an agriculturist  
2 without examination if it is proven to the satisfaction of  
3 the Board that the applicant:

4 (a) Is a graduate of a Bachelor's Degree in  
5 Agriculture or any agriculture-related degree or related  
6 baccalaureate program from a school, college, or university  
7 established or recognized by the government; and

8 (b) Has served the agriculture industry in any  
9 technical capacity in the government or private sector for  
10 not less than five (5) years before the effectivity of  
11 Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as the  
12 "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997",  
13 prior to the start of the Agriculturists Licensure  
14 Examination in 2003 pursuant to PRC Board of  
15 Agriculture Resolution No. 2, series of 2003, and prior to  
16 the creation of the Board of Agriculture, consistent with  
17 the provisions of Section 75 of the same Act. This service  
18 shall be certified in the service record of an applicant who  
19 is a government employee and certified under oath by an  
20 authorized official of the firm, company, or corporation of

1 an employee in the private sector; or

2 (c) Is a holder of a regular doctoral degree in  
3 agriculture on any of the six (6) fields of specialization  
4 specified under Section 14 of this Act, from a reputable  
5 university: *Provided*, That such individual submits  
6 required documents on educational attainment and  
7 evidence of active practice of agriculture. The Board may  
8 require presentation of the doctoral thesis and other  
9 evidence of achievement in agriculture.

10 Registration without examination under this section  
11 may be availed within five (5) years upon the effectivity of  
12 this Act. All laws and issuances inconsistent with this  
13 provision are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

1           SEC. 20. *Issuance of the Certificate of Registration*  
2           (*COR*) and *Professional Identification Card (PIC)*. – A COR  
3           shall be issued to a successful registrant, with or without  
4           examination, subject to the payment of fees prescribed by  
5           the PRC. The COR shall bear the signature of the  
6           chairperson of the PRC and the chairperson and members  
7           of the Board, stamped with the official seals of the PRC  
8           and the Board, indicating that the person named therein is  
9           entitled to practice the agriculture profession, with all  
10          appurtenant benefits and privileges. The COR shall  
11          remain in full force and effect until revoked or suspended  
12          in accordance with this Act.

13           A PIC bearing the registration number and dates of  
14          issuance and expiry duly signed by the chairperson of the PRC  
15          shall likewise be issued to every registrant upon payment of  
16          the required fees. The PIC shall be renewed, subject to  
17          compliance with the prescribed requirements, for such period  
18          as may be determined by the Board and the PRC.

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

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

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

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

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



1           (b)       Consultation, evaluation, investigation, and  
2 management services requiring the application of  
3 knowledge in agriculture and its components;

4           (c)       Preparation of plans, specifications, project  
5 feasibility studies and estimates, and other management  
6 services in the establishment and production of crops,  
7 raising of livestock and poultry, landscape horticulture,  
8 and marketing of agriculture products;

9           (d)       Research projects and studies in the areas of  
10 soil resources management, crop improvement, crop  
11 production, breeding of livestock and poultry, and animal  
12 and plant pest and disease management;

13          (e)       Training and extension work in agricultural  
14 crop production, poultry, and livestock raising;

15          (f)       Management and marketing services related  
16 to agriculture as a business or industry;

17          (g)       Teaching agriculture subjects in schools,  
18 colleges, and universities established or recognized by the  
19 government; and

20          (h)       Employment in the private and government

1 sectors where such employment requires the knowledge  
2 and expertise of a registered agriculturist.

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

12 The foregoing list notwithstanding, other activities,  
13 which now or hereafter may require the application of  
14 knowledge, skills, training, and expertise in agriculture as  
15 may be determined by the Board, shall be deemed to be  
16 within the scope of the practice of agriculture and governed  
17 by the provisions of this Act.



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

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

15          SEC. 29. *Act Not Affecting Other Professionals.* –  
16   This Act shall not be construed to affect or prevent the  
17   practice of any other legally recognized profession.

18          SEC. 30. *Prohibition Against Corporate Practice.* –  
19   A sole proprietor, consulting firm, association, or

1 organization may engage in the practice of the agriculture  
2 profession in the Philippines: *Provided*, That it complies  
3 with the following requirements:

4 (a) The firm, association, or organization is duly  
5 registered with the Department of Trade and Industry,  
6 Securities and Exchange Commission, or other appropriate  
7 agencies;

8 (b) The majority of the officers and board  
9 members of the firm, association, or organization are  
10 registered agriculturists; and

11 (c) Registered agriculturists shall carry out the  
12 practice of the consulting firm, association, or organization.

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

17 Registered agriculturists shall occupy all existing  
18 technical plantilla positions of provincial, city, and  
19 municipal agriculturist offices, including all agriculture

1 technical positions therein. For purposes of this Act, a  
2 position is deemed to be technical when it primarily  
3 requires the professional knowledge and skills of a  
4 registered agriculturist based on the scope of practice  
5 provided in Section 26 of this Act. All faculty members of  
6 state universities and colleges (SUCs) teaching  
7 agricultural courses shall be registered agriculturists.

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

13 SEC. 32. *Salary.* – The minimum base pay of  
14 registered agriculturists working in the national  
15 government, including the SUCs, shall not be lower than  
16 Salary Grade 13.

17 In line with this, local government units (LGUs) are  
18 encouraged to upgrade the salary grade of their personnel,  
19 consistent with the governing principles, guidelines, and

1 provisions of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local  
2 Government Code of 1991, subject to their financial  
3 capability.

4       SEC. 33. *Employment or Engagement of Agriculturists*  
5 *in the Private Sector.* – Private agricultural corporations  
6 shall employ or engage the services of registered  
7 agriculturists. All corporate farms, golf courses,  
8 agri-tourism sites, agri-related corporations or businesses,  
9 and other similar institutions or facilities involved in  
10 agriculture must employ or engage such number of  
11 registered agriculturists based on the scope of practice of  
12 the agriculture profession.

13       All faculty members of higher educational  
14 institutions teaching agricultural courses shall be  
15 registered agriculturists.

16       SEC. 34. *Integration of the Agriculture Profession.* –  
17 All registered agriculturists shall have one (1) national  
18 organization, which the Board and the PRC shall recognize  
19 as the only AIPO for registered agriculturists. A registered

1 agriculturist duly registered with the Board and the PRC  
2 shall automatically become a member of the AIPO and  
3 receive all appurtenant benefits and privileges upon  
4 payment of the prescribed fees and dues. Membership in  
5 the AIPO shall not bar membership in other organizations  
6 of registered agriculturists.

7       Upon the approval of this Act, the PRC shall adopt  
8 rules and regulations to integrate the agriculture profession  
9 under such conditions as it sees fit to raise its standards.

10       SEC. 35. *Code of Ethics and Code of Technical*  
11 *Standards for Agriculture Profession.* – The Board shall  
12 prescribe and promulgate the Code of Ethics and the Code  
13 of Technical Standards for registered agriculturists in  
14 consultation with the AIPO.

15       SEC. 36. *Continuing Professional Development*  
16 *Program.* – All registered agriculturists shall abide by the  
17 requirements, rules, and regulations on CPD to be  
18 promulgated by the Board and the PRC in coordination  
19 with the AIPO of registered agriculturists and the



1 regulatory policies of the Board and the PRC shall be meted the  
2 penalty of a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos  
3 (P100,000.00) nor more than Five hundred thousand pesos  
4 (P500,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months  
5 nor more than six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

6 Officers of government agencies and private  
7 establishments, including sole proprietors, consulting  
8 firms, associations, and organizations responsible for any  
9 such violation shall be held equally liable under this Act  
10 and other laws as the circumstances warrant.

11 SEC. 40. *Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the  
12 PRC shall immediately include in the PRC's programs the  
13 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be  
14 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

15 SEC. 41. *Transitory Provisions.* – The existing Board  
16 of Agriculture shall continue to function in the interim  
17 until the new Board has been constituted pursuant to this  
18 Act.

1           SEC. 42. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The  
2 Board shall issue and promulgate the IRR within  
3 one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this  
4 Act, subject to the approval of the PRC and in consultation  
5 with the AIPO. The IRR shall take effect after fifteen (15)  
6 days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or a  
7 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

8           SEC. 43. *Separability Clause.* – If any clause,  
9 sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act is declared  
10 unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect,  
11 invalidate, or impair any other part of this Act.

12           SEC. 44. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees,  
13 executive orders, memorandum orders, and other  
14 administrative issuances or parts thereof that are  
15 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
16 modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

17           SEC. 45. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen  
18 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a  
19 newspaper of general circulation.



Approved,