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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 612



Introduced by REP. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Congress is mandated under the law to undertake a mandatory review of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

In various consultations with concerned constituents nationwide, it has been determined that amendments to the Local Government Code of 1991 should be introduced to rationalized agricultural services.

The recent passage of Republic Act No. 8435 otherwise known as the Agriculture Modernization Act of 1997 makes it imperative that the Department of Agriculture, the lead department tasked to implement the law, for its monitoring and data gathering requirements, shall have complete administrative control and supervision over all personnel in the field level that are involved in agriculture and fishery, in order to effectively implement and achieve the objectives of the Agriculture and Fisheries Law. More so, the DA devolved agricultural extension workers are a potent force that can be utilized to pole vault the country's present agricultural growth to fast growing agricultural-based economy.

Furthermore, the present administration has placed agricultural productivity as one of its priority and to address this thrust it is imperative to amend certain provisions of the Local Government Code for the effective and efficient implementation of its program thrusts.

With the above cited reasons, the urgent passage of this Measure is earnestly requested.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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AN ACT REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF BASIC AGRICULTURAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Be it enacted by SENATE and HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 17 of the Republic No. 1760, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2.1 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Barangay on "Agricultural Support services which include planting materials distribution system and operation of farm produce collection and buying station," is hereby withdrawn from the Barangay and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (1), Par. 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 2.2 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Municipality on "Extension and on-site research services and facilities related to Agriculture and Fisheries

activities which include dispersal of livestock and poultry, fingerlings and other seedlings materials for aquaculture; palay, corn and vegetable seed farms; medicinal plant gardens; fruit tree, coconut and other kinds of seedling nurseries; demonstration farms; quality control of copra and improvement and development of local distribution channels, preferably through cooperatives; inter-barangay irrigation system; water and soil resource utilization and conservation projects; and enforcement of fishery laws in municipal waters including the conservation of mangroves' is hereby withdrawn from the Municipality and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (2), Par. 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 2.3 The devolution of basic services and facilities to the province on "Agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities which include the prevention and control of pest and animal pest and diseases; dairy farms, livestock markets, animal breeding station and artificial insemination centers, and assistance in the organization of farmer's and fishermen's cooperative and other collective organizations, as well as the transfer of appropriate technology," is hereby withdrawn from the Province and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (3), Par. 1, of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 2.4 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the City "as embodied in the same basic services and facilities for Municipality and Province," Section 17, Item (b), No. 2 and 3, Par 1, is hereby withdrawn from the city and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (4), Par 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

SECTION 2. Accordingly all personnel, technicians, facilities and properties previously transferred to the Barangay, Municipalities, Provinces and Cities shall be returned to the National Government.

SECTION 3. The funds necessary to cover the implementation of these amendments shall be appropriated for agriculture and shall be

provided for in the current General Appropriations Act and the years thereafter.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of this Act, an Agriculture and Fisheries Review Panel is hereby created to be composed of the following: the Secretary of Agriculture, as Chairman, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the President of National Agriculture and Fishery Council or their duly designated representatives, as members.

SECTION 5. The Agriculture and Fishery Review Panel in consultation with concerned sectors in the field, shall identify the problems of the industry under the re-nationalization set-up and recommend measures to enhance the agriculture productivity.

SECTION 6. All provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 not inconsistent with the foregoing amendments will remain in force and effect.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,