Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILLS AND INDEX DIV.

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1821

Introduced by Honorable JANETTE L. GARIN, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Act seeks to develop the seed industries in the country in order to produce thru intensive research and study, high quality varieties of seeds and most importantly to make them available in sufficient quantity to all farmers throughout the country.

It has been our experience that food production has always been fallen short of the demands, And since food production is now the primary thrust of our program, then it follows that we give impetus, nay top priority, to the development of technology for high quality seeds. And these seeds to be developed for quality and mass production shall include all kinds of agricultural products meant to augment our staple foods like rice, corn, and cassava. The availability to these high quality seeds to the farmers will help accelerate countryside development and will ultimately make our farmers, not only self-reliant in terms of quality seeds but also augment the income of the farmers.

This bill is therefore timely and urgent to meet the current trust if the national government. And in the light of the foregoing considerations, I urgently request my colleagues to approve this bill.

JANETTE L. GARIN, M.D.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1821

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AN ACT
TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE SEED INDUSTIES OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND TO INSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH QUALITY SEEDS OF SUPERIOR CROP VARIETIES FOR NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

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

SECTION 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the " Philippine Seed Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the development of a viable seed industry in the country. For this purpose, the government shall promote, encouragement and hasten the organization of, all sectors engaged in the industry. To achieve this purpose, the seed industry shall be considered as a preferred area of investment.

SEC. 3. National Seed Industry Development Program. - The Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Plant Industry, with Concurrence of the Seed Industry Council shall develop, for the approval of the President of the Philippines, a comprehensive medium and long term seed industry development program to achieve self-sufficiency in seed.

SEC. 4. Supervision and Control of the Industry. - The Bureau of Plant Industry shall supervise and control the production, and testing of

seeds to insure and guarantee the quality of such seeds.

SEC. 5. Seed Quality Control. - Seeds imported, produced, sold or offered or exposed for sale by government agricultural station, and growers/producers shall be subjected to quality control in accordance with the rules and regulations under this Act.

SEC. 6. Seed Certification and Quality Control Division. - There is hereby created in the Bureau of Plant Industry a Seed Certification and Quality Control Division which shall have the sole supervision and control over Seed Testing Laboratories, Field Inspections and Control Services. All personnel, funds and equipment of the Seed Certification Section of the BPI is hereby transferred to the herein created Division.

SEC. 7. Function of the Seed Certification and Quality Control Division. - The functions of the Seed Certification and Quality Control Division shall be to sample, inspect, make analysis of, and test agricultural, vegetables, flowers, pasture and tree seeds sold, or offered or exposed for sale within the country for sowing purposes, either produced locally or imported; to levy, assess and collect fees for inspection, testing and analysis of seed submitted in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. To help develop the seed industry as envisioned in this Act, there is hereby established a Seed Fund which shall be constituted from the following, to with;

a. Field inspection and seed testing fees; seed export and import fees;

b. Proceeds from licensing and issuance of permits for seed producers/ growers;

c. Fines collected in violation of this Act;

d. Donations or borrowings from private or government agencies, either foreign or domestic;

Provided, That the said fund shall be held in trust the Bureau of Plant Industry: Provided, further, That disposition, allocation and utilization of such fund shall be made by the Seed Industry Council with the approval of the Secretary of Agricultural: Provided, finally. That expenditures for scholarship on seed technology and attendance to the International Seed Testing Association Congresses, meetings and workshops shall have priority allocation from the seed export and import fees as mentioned in paragraph (c) of this section.

SEC. 9. Seed Industry Council. – A Seed Industry Council is hereby created to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in the formulation of policies, rules and regulations for the implementation of this provisions of this Act.

The existing Seed Board shall be maintained as a Task Force of the Council which formulate systems and procedures for nomination, review, approval, release, entry and discontinuation of crop varieties in national agricultural crop production and development program and to establish standards for seeds.

SEC. 10. Composition of Seed Industry Council. - The composition of the Seed Industry Council are as follows:

1. Secretary of Agriculture – Chairman
2. Director, Bureau of plants Industry – Vice-Chairman
3. Dean, College of Agriculture – University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Laguna
4. Director, Bureau of Agricultural Extension

5. Executive Director, National Food & Agricultural Council.

6. Director, Institute of Plant Breeding

7. Deputy Director General of Agriculture- National Economic and Development Authority

8. Seed Producers, President, Philippines Seed Producers Corporation

9. Deputy Director for Crops- PCARR

SEC. 11. Meetings of the Seed Industry Council. – The Council shall hold quarterly regular meetings: Provided, however, That it may call special meetings which shall not be more than four (4) times a year. The members of the Council shall act in ex-official capacity and shall not be entitled to receive per diem. A 1/3 plus one of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 12. Establishment of Seed Testing Laboratories. – The director of Plant Industry shall establish such seed testing laboratories as are necessary in various parts of the country, to ensure the attainment of the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 13. Police Authority to Search, Seize and Condemn Unlawful Seed Lots. - In order to carry out effectively the provision of this Act, the Director of Plant Industry or his duly authorized representatives are herby empowered to search and seize lots established in violation of the provision of this Act. Should the seed lots so searched and seized be suitable for condemnation in the judgment of the Director of Plant Industry, he is hereby empowered to issue to any of this designation

representatives an order for condemnation of the said unlawful seed lots, in which case the same shall be processed, destroyed, relabeled or otherwise disposed of, in such manner as he deem fit and proper: Provided, that in no case shall be the Director of Plant Industry order such condemnation without giving the claimant any opportunity to apply for the release of said seed or permission to process or re-label it in compliance with this Act.

SEC. 14. Penal Provisions – Any person, firm or association who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act, or its implementing rules and regulations, shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not more than five thousand pesos or imprisonment of not more than five years or both, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 15. Repealing Clause. – All laws, rules and regulations or prayer thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. Separability of Provisions. - If any part, section or provision of this Act be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section, or provision thereof shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 17. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,