

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 35



Introduced by: **Hon. RODOLFO W. ANTONINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There was a time in our country's history when our country was self sufficient in agriculture. Today, we are faced with production shortages to the point that the country has to import substantial amounts of rice and other agricultural commodities.

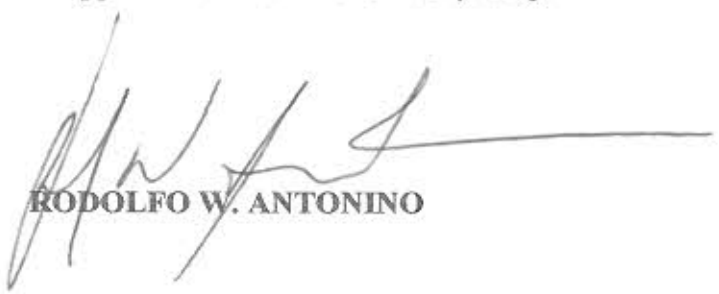
One of the primary factors that has caused this situation is the blatant and indiscriminate conversion of productive agricultural lands into residential, commercial, industrial, and other uses.

Section 20 of the Local Government Code vests on the Local Government Unit the authority to approve land conversion.

This bill seeks to amend section 20 of the Local Government Code by requiring the additional approval of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform before a land conversion application can be granted.

Such amendment would rationalize the Land Conversion application process and uphold the priority of the National government to provide food security to our people.

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


RODOLFO W. ANTONINO

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**“AN ACT
TO PROTECT ALL AGRICULTURAL LANDS FROM
INDISCRIMINATE LAND CONVERSION AMENDING SECTION
20 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE.”**

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

SECTION 1. *Title* – This Act shall be called the Agricultural Land Protection (ALP) Law.

SECTION 2. *Amendments to Republic Act 7160:*

Section 20 of Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC 20. *Reclassification of Lands.* – (a) A City or Municipality may, through an ordinance passed by the Sanggunian after conducting public hearing for the purpose, authorize the reclassification of **IRRIGATED OR IRRIGABLE** agricultural lands and provide for the manner of their utilization or disposition in the following cases: (1) when the land ceases to be economically feasible and

sound for agricultural purposes as certified to by the Department of Agriculture
AND; (2) WHEN THE LAND IS NOT IDENTIFIED AS SUBJECT TO
AGRARIAN REFORM OR HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO AGRARIAN
REFORM BENEFICIARIES AS CERTIFIED TO BY THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRARIAN REFORM: Provided, that such reclassification shall be
limited to the following percentage of the total existing agricultural area, at the
time of the passage of the ordinance

- (1) XXX
- (2) XXX
- (3) XXX

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid for
any reason, the remainder of this Act of the application of such provision to other
provision or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 4. *Penalties*. – Failure of the concerned local government units to
abide by the provisions of this Act within their jurisdictions shall be grounds for
disciplinary action, as provided for in Section 60 of The Local Government Code (RA
7160)

SECTION 5. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Approved,