

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 544

INTRODUCED BY REP. PEDRO P. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is an urgent need to update this particular provision of the Public Land Act to hasten the process and shorten the publication requirement from six (6) consecutive weeks to two (2) weeks.

The publication will only be in the English language and in a newspaper of general circulation instead of the present provision which requires the publication also in Spanish or local dialect. The period to award the land to the winning bidder is also shorten from sixty days to thirty days.

There is a strong clamor from the public for better governance and to eradicate red tape as well as hasten the processing of government transactions. This move is consistent with our thrust to improve our government systems and processes for better accountability.

May I therefore earnestly request your kind and favorable support for the early passage of this measure.


PEDRO P. ROMUALDO
Lone District, Camiguin

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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 24 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PUBLIC LAND ACT" AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 24 of Commonwealth Act No. 141 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 24. Lands sold under the provisions of this chapter must be appraised with section one hundred and sixteen of this Act. The DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES [Director of Lands] shall announce the sale thereof by publishing the proper notice once a week for TWO [six] consecutive weeks in the Official Gazette, and in two newspapers one published in Manila and the other published in the municipality or in the province where the lands are located, or in a neighboring province, and the same notice shall be posted on the bulleting board of the DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES [Bureau of Lands] in Manila, and in the most conspicuous place in the provincial building and the municipal building of the province and municipality, respectively, where the land is located, and, if practicable, on the land itself; but if the value of the land does not exceed FIFTY THOUSAND [two hundred and forty] pesos, the publication in the Official Gazette and newspapers may be omitted. The notices shall be published [one] in English [and the other in Spanish or in the local dialect,] and shall

fix a date not earlier than [sixty] THIRTY days after the date of the notice upon which the land will be awarded to the highest bidder, or public bids will be called for, or other action will be taken as provided in this chapter."

Section 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional for any reason whatsoever such declaration shall not in any way affect other parts or sections of this Act.

Section 3. *Repealing clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed.

Section 4. *Implementing rules and regulations.* – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in coordination with the National Printing Office shall draft the implementing rules and regulations to implement this Act.

Section 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in two (2) major daily newspapers of national circulation.

Approved.