

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1322



Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

With multiple consultations with concerned constituents nationwide, it is clearly determined that revisions to the Local Government Code of 1991 should be introduced to rationalized agricultural services.

The recent passage of Republic Act No. 8435 also known as the Agriculture Modernization Act of 1997 makes it essential that the Department of Agriculture, the leading department tasked to implement the law, for its monitoring and data gathering requirements, shall have complete administrative control, regulation and supervision over all personnel in the field involved in agriculture and fishery, so that the objectives of the Agriculture and Fisheries Law will be effectively implemented. 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.

Most of the time, the government has always prioritized agricultural productivity and in order to address this, it is necessary to amend certain provisions of the Local Government Code for effective and efficient implementation of its program thrusts.

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


EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

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AN ACT
REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF
BASIC AGRICULTURAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLVED
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 the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 17 of the Republic No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
2 Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended:

3 Section 1.1 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the
4 Barangay on "Agricultural Support services which include planting materials
5 distribution system and operation of farm produce collection and buying
6 station," is hereby withdrawn from the Barangay and reverted back to the
7 National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (1), Par. 1 of the
8 Local Government Code of 1991.

9 Section 1.2 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the
10 Municipality on "Extension and on-site research services and facilities related to
11 Agriculture and Fisheries activities which include dispersal of livestock and
12 poultry, fingerlings and other seedlings materials for aquaculture; palay, corn
13 and vegetable seed farms; medicinal plant gardens; fruit tree, coconut and other
14 kinds of seedling nurseries; demonstration farms; quality control of copra and
15 improvement and development of local distribution channels, preferably

1 through cooperatives; inter-barangay irrigation system; water and soil resource
2 utilization and conservation projects; and enforcement of fishery laws in
3 municipal waters including the conservation of mangroves” is hereby
4 withdrawn from the Municipality and reverted back to the National
5 Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (2), Par. 1 of the Local
6 Government Code of 1991.

7 Section 1.3 The devolution of basic services and facilities to the province
8 on "Agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities which
9 include the prevention and control of pest and animal pest and diseases; dairy
10 farms, livestock markets, animal breeding station and artificial insemination
11 centers, and assistance in the organization of farmer's and fishermen's
12 cooperative and other collective organizations, as well as the transfer of
13 appropriate technology," is hereby withdrawn from the Province and reverted
14 back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (3),
15 Par. 1, of the Local Government Code of 1991.

16 Section 1.4 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the City
17 "as embodied in the same basic services and facilities for Municipality and
18 Province," Section 17, Item (b), No. 2 and 3, Far 1, is hereby withdrawn from
19 the city and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17,
20 item (b), No. (4), Par 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

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

24 **SECTION 3.** The funds necessary to cover the implementation of these
25 amendments should be appropriated for agriculture and shall be provided for in the
26 current General Appropriations Act and the years thereafter.

27 **SECTION 4.** For the purpose of this Act, an Agriculture and Fisheries Review
28 Panel is hereby created to be composed of the following: the Secretary of Agriculture, as

1 Chairman, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the President of National
2 Agriculture and Fishery Council or their duly designated representatives, as members.

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

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

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

9 *Approved.*