

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1459



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE XAVIER JESUS "XJ" D. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The late Representative Pedro P. Romualdo originally filed this proposed measure in the previous Congress.

Commonwealth Act No. 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act, was enacted in 1936. There is a need to amend the antiquated provisions of Section 24 of the Public Land Act to bring up to date the process of disposition of alienable public agricultural lands to qualified persons.

If the proposed amendments are enacted into law, the period for publication of notices of sale shall now be two (2) consecutive weeks, instead of six (6) consecutive weeks. Such notices shall be published just in English, instead of English and Spanish or in the local dialect. The threshold land value that will result in an exemption from the requirement of publication in the Official Gazette and in newspapers shall now be Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), instead of Two Hundred Forty Pesos (P240.00). Finally, the date on which public biddings shall be held and the awards of the lands to disposed of shall be made shall be thirty (30) days after the date of the notice of sale, instead of sixty (60) days.

In order for government to be able to better serve the people, we must revisit, review, and update our old statutes so that our laws are able to respond to and meet the needs and demands of the present times. This proposed measure is a step in that direction.

Hence, with a view to streamlining and improving government systems, procedures, and processes, the kind and favorable support of the Members of Congress for the prompt and timely passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


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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 in accordance with section one hundred and sixteen of this Act. The DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) [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 bulletin board of the DENR [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] THIRTY [sixty] 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. 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 accordingly.

Section 3. 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 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.