

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

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House Bill No. 2933



Introduced by Hon. Delphine Gan Lee

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Reliable and accessible information on the weather is essential for agricultural producers. It is an important factor in crop planning and management. The type of crop to be planted is mainly dependent on existing weather and climactic conditions. Certain types of crops are suitable only for the wet season and will not thrive during the dry season.

Accurate weather information is also significant in minimizing the losses caused by extreme changes in the weather condition. These weather disturbances usually occur unexpectedly. Every year, agricultural crops worth millions of pesos are lost/damaged by such unforeseen weather disturbances. These losses are caused by the lack or inadequacy of weather information that will enable agricultural producers to take the necessary precaution against natural calamities.

This bill seeks the establishment of an Agricultural Weather Office which shall be responsible for the collection and distribution of weather information that will address the needs of agricultural producers.


HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative, AGRI Party-List

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1 (B) Director. – The Secretary shall appoint a Director to manage the activities of the
2 Agricultural Weather Office and to advise the Secretary on scientific and pragmatic
3 coordination for climate, weather, and remote sensing.

4 SECTION 4. *Authority.* – The Secretary, acting through the Office, may undertake
5 the following activities to carry out the provisions of this Act:

6 (A) Enter into cooperative projects with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical,
7 and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and other related
8 government agencies to —

9 (1) Support operational weather forecasting and observation useful in
10 agriculture;

11 (2) Sponsor joint workshops to train agriculturalists about the optimum
12 utilization of agricultural weather and climate data;

13 (3) Jointly develop improved computer models and computing capacity; and

14 (4) Enhance the quality and availability of weather and climate information
15 needed by agriculturalists;

16 (B) Obtain standardized weather observation data collected in near real time through
17 regional Agricultural Weather Information Systems;

18 (C) Make, through the Department of Science and Technology, competitive grants
19 under Section 6 of this Act for research in atmospheric science and climatology;

20 (D) Make grants to eligible provinces under Section 8 of this Act to plan and
21 administer Regional Agricultural Weather Information Systems;

22 (E) Coordinate the activities of the Office with the weather and climate research
23 activities of the Department of Science and Technology; and

24 (F) Encourage private sector participation in the National Agricultural Weather
25 Information System through mutually beneficial cooperation with the private

1 sector particularly in the generation of weather and climatic data useful for site-
2 specific agricultural forecasting.

3 SECTION 5. *Weather Information Collection and Distribution to Agricultural*

4 *Producers.* – (A) As one of the cooperative projects authorized by Section 4(1), the Secretary
5 of Agriculture shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Science
6 and Technology (DOST) to use PAGASA's regional offices to collect, organize, and
7 distribute information aimed at meeting the short-term and long-term weather and climate
8 information needs of agricultural producers.

9 (B) Information Collection. – The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of
10 Science and Technology shall jointly develop a system for the collection by the PAGASA of
11 weather and climate information that is relevant to agricultural producers and available
12 through the Agricultural Weather Office and other related agencies, regional agricultural
13 weather information systems and other State programs, colleges and universities, and the
14 private weather consulting sector.

15 (C) Methods of Distribution. – Weather and climate information collected under this
16 section shall be distributed to agricultural producers through the use of –

17 (1) Weekly publications containing weather forecasts and other information
18 regarding anticipated temperatures and precipitation levels;

19 (2) Toll-free and local telephone numbers that agricultural producers can call
20 to obtain immediate information to assist with specific day-to-day
21 production activities; and

22 (3) Such other methods as the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of
23 Science and Technology considers appropriate to distribute such weather
24 and climate information to agricultural producers in a timely manner.

1 (D) Report. – Not later than one (1) year after the date of promulgation of this Act,
2 the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Science and Technology shall jointly submit
3 a report to Congress analyzing the effectiveness of the cooperative project required by
4 paragraph (A) of this Section, in providing relevant weather and climate information to
5 agricultural producers. The report shall include a description of the number of agricultural
6 producers who obtained weather information through the project and an estimate of whether
7 the project improved farm profitability for participating producers.

8 SECTION 6. *Competitive Grants Program.* –

9 (A) Grants Authorized. – With funds allocated to carry out this Act, the Secretary
10 may make grants to State agricultural experiment stations, public/private colleges and
11 universities other research institutions and organizations, private organizations and
12 corporations, and individuals to carry out research in all aspects of atmosphere sciences and
13 climatology that can be shown to be important in a basic and developmental way to
14 understanding, forecasting and delivering agricultural weather information.

15 (B) Competitive Basis. – Grants made under this section shall be made on a
16 competitive basis.

17 (C) Priority. – In selecting among applications for grants under paragraph (A) of this
18 Section, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals which emphasize —

19 (1) Techniques and processes that relate to weather-induced agricultural
20 losses, and to improving the advisory information on weather extremes
21 such as drought, floods, and storms well in advance of their actual
22 occurrence;

23 (2) The improvement of site-specific weather data collection and forecasting;
24 or

1 (3) The impact of weather on economic and environmental costs in
2 agricultural production.

3 SECTION 7. *National Advisory Board on Agricultural Weather.* —

4 (A) Establishment Required. — The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an
5 Advisory Board on Agricultural Weather (herein after referred to in this section as the
6 “Board”) to advise the Director of the Agricultural Weather Office with respect to carrying
7 out the provisions of this Act.

8 (B) Composition. — The Board shall be composed of nine (9) members, to be
9 appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with the Secretary of Science and
10 Technology. Four (4) members shall come from the private sector, two (2) of whom shall be
11 agricultural producers, and the other two (2), agricultural or atmospheric scientists.

12 (C) Chairperson. — The Board shall elect a chairperson from among its members.

13 (D) Term. — Each Board member shall be appointed for a three-year term, except that
14 to ensure that members of the Board serve staggered terms, the Secretary shall appoint three
15 (3) of the original members of the Board for a term of one (1) year and another three (3) of
16 the original members for a term of two (2) years.

17 (E) Meetings. — The Board shall meet not less than twice annually.

18 (F) Compensation. — Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but
19 while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for
20 the Board, members of the Board shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem
21 allowance in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as individuals employed in Government
22 service are allowed travel expenses.

23 SECTION 8. *Regional Agricultural Weather Information Systems.* —

1 (A) Advisory Program Grants. – Grants required. With funds allocated to carry out
2 this Act, the Secretary shall make grants to eligible provinces, each region (refers to the
3 twelve (12) regions of the Philippines and the autonomous regions created by law) to be
4 represented by one (1) province to plan and administer, in cooperation with persons described
5 in the next paragraph, advisory programs for regional agricultural weather information
6 systems.

7 The persons referred to in the above paragraph are the Director of the Agricultural
8 Weather Office, the Director of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical
9 Services, and other persons as appropriate, such as the directors of the appropriate State
10 agricultural experiment stations and State extension programs.

11 (B) Consultation. – For purposes of selecting among applications submitted by
12 provinces for grants under this section, the Secretary shall take into consideration the
13 recommendation of the Advisory Board on Agricultural Weather and consult with the
14 Director.

15 (C) Eligibility Requirements. – To be eligible to receive a grant under this Section, the
16 chief executive officer of a province shall submit to the Secretary an application that contains

17 (1) Assurances that the province will expend such grant to plan and administer
18 a Regional Agricultural Weather System that will –

19 (a) Collect observational weather data throughout the region and
20 provide such data to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and
21 Astronomical Services Administration and the Agricultural
22 Weather Office;

23 (b) Develop methods for packaging information received from the
24 national system for use by agricultural producers with the
25 PAGASA and the private sector to serve as the primary conduit of

1 agricultural weather forecasts and climatic information to
2 producers; and

3 (c) Develop programs to educate agricultural producers on how to best
4 use weather and climate information to improve crop planning and
5 management decision; and

6 (2) Such other assurances and information as the Secretary may require by
7 rule.

8 SECTION 9. *Appropriation.* – The amount of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) is
9 hereby appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act. Subsequent appropriations for the
10 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

11 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
12 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
13 valid and subsisting.

14 SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
15 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
16 inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
17 accordingly.

18 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
19 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,