

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3788



Introduced by Hon. Delphine Gan Lee

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the 2012 Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, the agricultural sector employs an estimated 12 million people, making up 33 percent of the country's labour force. About 70 percent of the rural poor are farmers and fishermen. Though the sector contributes about 11 percent to the country's GDP with US\$14.7 billion, 2011 government investment in the sector was only 4 percent of the national budget. In that same year total government spending on agriculture was \$1.6 billion, almost 24 percent lower than the previous year.

Experts say that weak government policies and programs, an excessive reliance on agricultural imports, and corruption, have taken their toll on the agricultural sector. On the side of education, the average level of education of a farmer is grade five. This bill aims to help the agricultural sector by providing social services to dependents of farmers. This will send a statement to the agricultural sector that the state is serious in providing them with adequate support. It may also encourage their children to continue farming and help in the livelihood of the family.

The early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative, AGRI Party-List

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AN ACT
PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE DEPENDENTS OF FARMERS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Social Services for Farmers’ Dependents Act of 2013.”

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term “Farming” or “agriculture” shall include farming in all of its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural or horticultural commodities, the growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, the raising of livestock including horses, the keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise, the keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle and other domesticated animals used for food purposes, bees, fur-bearing animals, and any forestry or lumbering operations, performed by a farmer, who is hereby defined as one engaged in agriculture or farming as herein defined, or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with such farming operations, including preparations for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market.

1 A “dependent” means a legitimate, illegitimate or legally adopted child chiefly
2 dependent upon and living with the taxpayer if such dependent is not more than twenty-one
3 (21) years of age, unmarried and not gainfully employed or if such dependent, regardless of
4 age, is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical defect.

5 SECTION 3. *Farmers’ Dependents Social Services Program.* – There shall be created
6 a Farmers’ Dependents Social Services Program which shall be in charge of the delivery of
7 social services to the dependents of farmers and farm workers.

8 SECTION 4. *Farmers’ Dependents Social Services Program Office.* –There is hereby
9 created an Office in the Department of Agriculture that shall be responsible for the
10 implementation of the Farmers’ Dependents Social Services Program in Section 4 of this Act.
11 It shall in charge of the delivery of the following:

12 (A) Credit facilities during times of natural calamities such as typhoons, drought, and
13 other similar events;

14 (B) Counseling and information dissemination on available healthcare for dependents;

15 (C) Coordinate with the Department of Social Welfare and Development in drawing
16 and implementing plans for the promotion of the welfare of the dependents on
17 farmers, particularly those who belong to the poorest of the poor;

18 (D) Prepare a report on the dependents of farmers who are in most need of assistance
19 and to draw up a financial assistance package to be drawn from private
20 contributors;

21 (E) Conduct seminars, trainings, and other related activities.

22 SECTION 5. *Funding.* – The Center shall have an initial funding of FIVE BILLION
23 PESOS (P5,000,000,000.00).

1 SECTION 6. *Incentives.* – In order to encourage private sector participation, all
2 expenses incurred by any private individual, corporation, or a non-governmental
3 organization, in the establishment of facilities or in the performance of services, including
4 donations, which are consistent with the declared policies of this Act, shall be considered as
5 allowable deductions from the gross income as defined under the National Internal Revenue
6 Code, as amended.

7
8 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Agriculture
9 and the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall jointly issue the implementing
10 rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days
11 from its date of effectivity.

12 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
13 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
14 valid and subsisting.

15 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
16 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
17 with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

18 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.