

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3790



Introduced by Hon. Delphine Gan Lee

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Research suggests that earlier influences on a person will likely affect his future career considerations and interests. Studies have likewise estimated that money invested in quality early education leads to yields savings of about seven times that amount in education costs later in the child's life. This bill seeks to help improve the quality of Philippine education by providing for additional subjects on agricultural science in elementary and junior high school.

There is now a waning interest on the part of the youth in taking up farming as a vocation and this has resulted in the drop of enrollees in agricultural courses, which are offered primarily in state universities and colleges. Rex Bingabing, the executive director of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), said that aging Filipino farmers quitting has led to problems in some areas in the country, which could lead to a food crisis. He was quoted in saying that in many areas, we are already experiencing the effects of this scenario. In places in Central Luzon, farm owners are already having difficulty in finding farm workers during the time of planting and harvest.

While the government has yet to determine how many farmers are quitting because of old age, the preliminary results of the last Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics

Office (NSO) showed 624,000 workers losing their jobs during the period in review. This drop in the country's overall employment rate is due to the decline in employment in the agriculture sector, with the number of agricultural workers falling from an estimated 12.468 million in April 2012 to 11.844 million in April 2013, or by about 624,000 workers.

It is the hope of the author that this will renew interest in crops and livestock cultivation to ensure the steady stream of students who will pursue agricultural science as a college degree, and eventually as a career in their professional life. This will ultimately strengthen our position as an agricultural country and ensure food stability and the availability of local experts on farming techniques and innovations.

The early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. DELPHINE GAN LEE
Representative, AGRI Party-List

(B) resources;

(C) “Department” means the Department of Education; and

(D) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

SECTION 4. *Agricultural Science Subjects.* – The Secretary shall require the inclusion of a primary agricultural science subject in the senior year of elementary and an advanced agricultural science subject in one year in junior high school.

SECTION 5. *Program Requirements.* – The Agricultural Science Subjects described in Section 4 of this Act shall have the following minimum curriculum:

(A) Soils;

(B) The general structure and function of plants;

(C) Farm crops – cereal and roots;

(D) Farm crops – grasslands;

(E) Structure and function of the animal body;

(F) Common livestock;

(G) Agricultural Marketing practices.

SECTION 6. *Duties of the Secretary.* – In order to carry out the purpose of this Act, the Secretary shall:

(A) Formulate the necessary curriculum in the stated grade levels in consultation with the Department of Agriculture.

(B) Establish any other policies, procedures, or requirements, with respect to this educational program.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain

1 valid and subsisting.

2 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
3 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
4 with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

5 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.