

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1094

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
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BY:	<u>[Signature]</u>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by **HON. RONALD M. COSALAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Section 482(a), Article 12 of The Local Government Code, making it mandatory for municipal government units to appoint an agriculturist.

Sec. 17, Local Government Code provides that local government units shall endeavor to be self-reliant and provide certain services and facilities in their area. Subsection (b)(2)(i) of said section provides that Municipalities are mandated to provide extension and onsite research services and facilities related to agriculture and fishery activities, including dispersal of livestock and poultry; palay, corn and vegetable seed farms, medicinal plant gardens, fruit trees, coconut and other kinds of seedling nurseries; demonstration farms, inter barangay irrigation system, water and soil resource utilization and conservation projects, and others.

Further, in Section 482, the Agriculturist is mandated to perform various functions, namely: (1) to formulate measures and provide technical assistance and support to ensure delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to agricultural services; (2) to develop plans and strategies and implement those dealing with agricultural programs and projects, among others; (3) to ensure maximum assistance and access to resources in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and aqua-cultural and marine products to farmers, fishermen and local local entrepreneurs; (4) to conduct agricultural researchers and assist in making available appropriate technology and disseminate information on crops, plant diseases and pest and other agricultural matters; (5) to enforce rules and regulations relating to agriculture and aquaculture; and (6) to coordinate with government and non-government offices to promote agricultural productivity.

An agriculturist is, therefore, the frontliner in the formulation, planning and delivery of basic agricultural services even in municipalities. However, the Local

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An agriculturist is, therefore, the frontliner in the formulation, planning and delivery of basic agricultural services even in municipalities. However, the Local

Government Code only requires provincial governments to appoint such an officer, and leaves to the discretion of the municipality whether one will be appointed or not, despite the importance of the functions he execute.

Agriculture remains to be the traditional industry in most provinces and municipalities outside the capital cities in the country. In fact, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2011-2016 recognizes that the agricultural industry provides food and vital raw materials for the rest of the economy. Increasing productivity and efficiency in this sector will be crucial in maintaining the affordability of food and purchasing power of the masses, especially among the poor. Thus, development in agriculture is vital in achieving inclusive growth and poverty reduction and attaining the goals under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This amendment could facilitate the accomplishment of these goals and policies and the delivery of basic agricultural services in municipalities.

It is for these reasons that support for and prompt passage of this proposed bill is earnestly sought.



HON. RONALD M. COSALAN
Representative
Lone District, Benguet Province (CAR)

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by **HON. RONALD M. COSALAN**

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 482(a), ARTICLE 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE,
REQUIRING THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF
AGRICULTURIST IN MUNICIPALITIES

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

SECTION 1. Section 482(a), Article 12 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 482. Qualifications, Powers and Duties

"(a) No person shall be appointed agriculturist unless he is citizen of the Philippine, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree in agriculture or any related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have practiced his profession in agriculture or acquired experience in a related field for, at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial and city agriculturist, and three (3) years in the case of the municipal agriculturist.

"The position of an agriculturist shall be mandatory for the provincial AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS and optional for the city [and municipal government (s)]."

SECTION 2. All other laws which are inconsistent with the above-mentioned following provisions shall be deemed repealed or amended as appropriate.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national papers of general circulation, whichever come earlier.

Approved,