

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4471**

Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

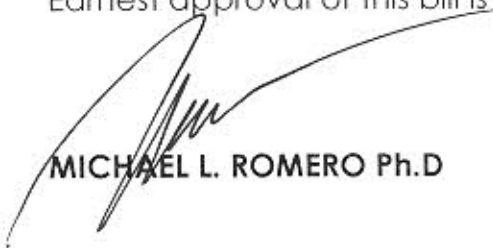
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. In pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop.

Thus, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to enable those who belong to the agriculture and fisheries sectors to participate and share in the fruits of development and growth in a manner that utilizes the nations resources in the most efficient and sustainable way possible by establishing a more equitable access to assets, income, basic and support services and infrastructure.

This House Bill seeks to promote food security, including sufficiency in our staple food shall be optimized to meet our local consumption and shall be given adequate support by the State.

Earnest approval of this bill is hereby requested.



MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D

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HOUSE BILL NO. ____

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AN ACT

**AMENDING SECTION 11 OF R.A. NO.8345 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act OF 1997",
INCREASING ITS PENALTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy

Section 11 of Republic Act No. 8345 is hereby amended to read:

Section 11. Penalty for Agricultural Inactivity and Premature Conversion. - Any person or juridical entity who knowingly or deliberately causes any irrigated agricultural lands seven (7) hectares or larger, whether contiguous for not, within the protected areas for agricultural development, as specified under Section 6 in

relation to Section 9 of this Act, to lie idle and unproductive for a period exceeding one (1) year, unless due to force majeure, shall be subject to an idle land tax of Twenty thousand Pesos **(P20,000.00)** per hectare per year. In addition, the violator, shall be required to put back such lands to productive agricultural use.

Should the continued agricultural inactivity, unless due to force majeure, exceed a period of two (2) years, the land shall be subject to escheat proceedings.

Any person found guilty of premature or illegal conversion shall be penalized with imprisonment of two (2) to six (6) years, or a fine equivalent to one hundred percent **(100%)** of the government's investment cost, or both, at the discretion of the court, and an accessory penalty of forfeiture of the land and any improvement thereon.

SECTION 2. Miscellaneous Sanctions:

In addition, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall impose the following penalties, after determining, in an administrative proceeding, that violation of this law has been committed:

- a.** Consolation or withdrawal of the authorization for land use conversion; and
- b.** Blacklisting, or automatic disapproval of pending and subsequent conversion applications that they may file with the DAR.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. If, for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,