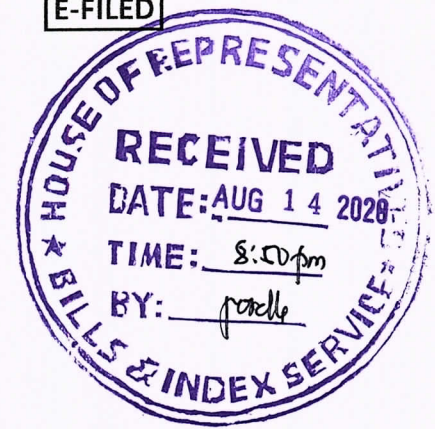


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7395

E-FILED



Introduced by **Hon. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to promote and accelerate the development of the seed industry. Pursuant to Republic Act 7308, the government is mandated to conserve, preserve and develop the plant genetic resources of the nation, encourage and hasten the organization of all sectors engaged in the seed industry, integrate all their activities and provide assistance to them, consider the seed industry as a preferred area of investment, encourage the private sector to engage in seed research and development and in mass production and distribution of good quality seeds, and provide the local industry protection against unfair competition from imported seeds.

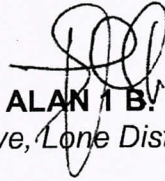
In this time of COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippine Seed Industry Association has warned of food shortages should the movement of seeds and farm inputs and personnel continue to be hindered. It further noted that there are reported difficulties in transporting agricultural commodities and in moving necessary farm manpower domestically, despite the government declaring that food, seeds, and farm inputs were exempted from movement restrictions. Dinagat Islands is among the provinces having difficulty receiving enough quality seeds for its agricultural productivity due to it being a remote and geographically challenged area. Regrettably, this jeopardizes food adequacy to the detriment of the Dinagatnons.

Moreover, as presented in the 3rd National Seed Summit of 2014, heavy rainfall hinders seed delivery and limits seed production and so breeding new varieties of seeds is recommended to combat climate change. This finds propriety in the province of Dinagat Islands. Located north of mainland Mindanao, Dinagat has an average daily rainfall total of 11.97 mm and a monthly average rainfall of 370.99 mm in January, causing it to experience landslides as a result. Hence, a provincial seed bank which can safely store varieties of quality seeds against hazard of frequent heavy rainfall and which can conserve biodiversity is an appropriate adaptation measure in the province.

Despite these blatant difficulties, the Province of Dinagat Islands still strives to provide adequate, accessible, and affordable food for its people, in keeping with the Department of Agriculture's Plant, Plant, Plant Program. However, extension of assistance is still irrefutably necessary in order for the province to continue its aim.

Hence, the establishment of a Provincial Seedling Bank in the Municipality of Libjo, Province of Dinagat Islands is hereby requested with the end goal of increasing our farmers' accessibility to high quality seeds and ensuring food adequacy for the Dinagatnons.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALAN B. ECLEO

Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7395

Introduced by **Hon. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PROVINCIAL SEEDLING BANK IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF LIBJO, PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established and maintained, under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Plant Industry, a provincial Seedling Bank in the Municipality of Libjo, Province of Dinagat Islands to be known as Dinagat Seedling Bank for the purpose of ensuring the stable and continuous availability of quality seeds and the safety of plant food, with the end view of safeguarding the plant industry.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Department of Agriculture shall immediately include in the agency's programs the operationalization of Dinagat Seedling Bank, the funding of which shall initially come from the savings of Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the efficient operation and maintenance of said office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,