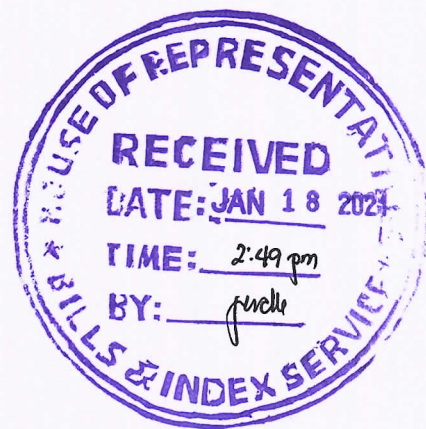


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8394

Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

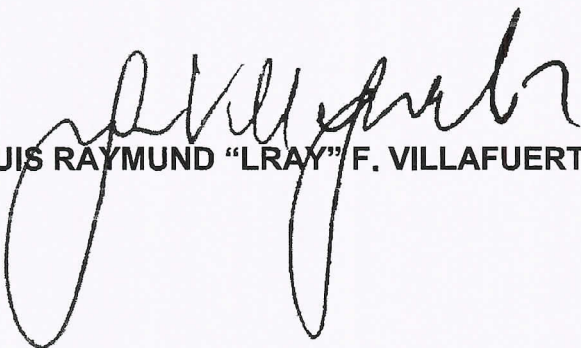
**AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN FARMING TO ADDRESS FOOD
SECURITY CONCERNS AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE**

The humble intention of this proposed measure is to contribute to the attainment of food security that still remains elusive to a lot of Filipinos. In 2018, according to a Social Weather Station survey, 19 million Filipinos experienced hunger. Around half that number experienced severe hunger.

To further advance agriculture and food security, this measure aims to promote the practice of urban farming. Urban farming is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around a village, town or city which could also involve animal agriculture, aquaculture and agroforestry, among others.

It provides a way to provide citizens easy access to several agricultural products right within their cities and/or communities. In addition, under this measure, urban agriculture and vertical farming shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions.

In this light, the approval of this bill is fervently sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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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 "Integrated Urban Agriculture Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and to be free from hunger. The achievement of self-sufficiency in food production and building climate resilient communities is therefore adopted as primary state policy. Towards this end, key reforms for the development of modern, appropriate, cost-effective and environmentally safe agriculture technologies are hereby encouraged in order to ensure the food security of the country.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. - For the purpose of this Act, the term:

3.1. Integrated Urban Agriculture - shall refer to the practice of cultivating, processing and distribution of food in, or around a village, town or city. Integrated Urban agriculture also involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture.

3.2. Vertical Farming - shall refer to the method of farming that is brought to the urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in sky scrapers and other modern buildings.

Sec. 4. Comprehensive Research on Integrated Urban Farming. - For the purpose of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to promote the use of integrated urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's metropolitan areas as an instrument to address food security concerns and regenerate ecosystem function of the Philippines. Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either national and local governments or available land resources in state universities and colleges shall be considered for growing crops, raising livestock and producing food using the said methods. Safety standards must be followed such that DOST and other pertinent agencies should include research and development of appropriate technologies necessary in promoting integrated agriculture technologies.

Sec. 5. Inclusion of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in Agricultural Training. - Urban agriculture and vertical farming used in agricultural production shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions offering courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture. A course curriculum on gardening/urban gardening shall also be developed and included into the regular curriculum of both elementary and secondary education.

All elementary and secondary schools, public or private, state colleges and universities shall implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular curriculum its practical or on-hand application.

For universities and colleges, urban gardening or agriculture shall form part of the required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training Program (NSTP) or the Citizen Military Training (CMT). A plan therefore for the utilization or the maximization of space occupied by schools shall be formulated specifically for urban gardening/agriculture. Instructional materials shall also be developed.

The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this section within six (6) months from the date of effectively hereof.

SEC. 6. Creation and Composition of the Urban Farming Council (UFC). - There is hereby established an Urban Farming Council (UFC) which shall be attached to the Department of Agriculture. The UFC shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) who shall serve as Chair of the UFC;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF);
- (d) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- (e) Representative from the People's Organizations (PO);
- (f) Representative from the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO);
- (g) Representative from the National Urban Poor Sector Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NUPSC-NAPC);
- (h) The National President of the League of the Cities of the Philippines;

- (i) The National President of the League of the Municipalities of the Philippines; and,
- (j) Representative from the private sector who have expertise in urban farming and/or vertical farming.

Sec. 7. Appropriation. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be equivalent to two percent (2%) of the annual appropriations of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Sec. 8. Local Government Units Participation. - The local government units shall formulate the policy on the practice of urban farming and the utilization of unused spaces and idle lands. This shall require the enactment of local legislation institutionalizing urban gardening or agriculture in all levels of the LGU. Further, this shall require local governments to enact measures or ordinances that will include urban gardening/agriculture as a regular component in budget appropriations of local government units.

All cities and urbanized municipalities where urban farming activities are conducted shall extend whatever assistance necessary for the urban practitioners/farmers to exercise Urban Farming and benefit from any incentives under this Act.

All homeowners associations, neighborhood associations and community associations and/or people's organizations are encouraged to participate in urban farming activities within their area of operations. The concerned LGU shall grant necessary incentives for the benefit of the members of the concerned associations or people's organizations who actively participate in urban farming activities.

Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DA, the DOST, the DepEd, the CHED, the DILG, and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) through the National Urban Poor Sector Council (NUPSC), in consultation with the private sector, business groups, input providers, consumer groups, informal settlers and most vulnerable sectors, non-government organizations and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 10. 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 valid and subsisting.

Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Sec. 12. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or In at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,