

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1295



Introduced by. **REP. WILBERT T. LEE**

AN ACT
GRANTING FREE TERTIARY AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, AND OTHER RELATED
COURSES TO ALL DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF QUALIFIED INDIGENT FARMERS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2018, we enacted R.A. No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law. This opened our local market to competition from imported rice. This exposed the inefficiencies in our local rice production industry; something that we hope to address moving forward. The same can be said with the rest of our agricultural sector outside of rice production.


The hope is that through various programs, including modernization of equipment and application of modern agricultural techniques, we would be able to produce at costs that can compete with the rest of the world.

Key to our agricultural progress is ensuring that we have well-trained and educated citizenry who will take our agricultural sector to the next level.

This bill seeks to provide free agricultural education to the children of indigent farmers by providing them with scholarships, allowances, and other assistance. This will not only help break the cycle of poverty in agricultural communities but will be an investment for the future of our agricultural sector. Through education, we seek

to encourage many of our students to stay in agriculture and be a part of development.

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



WILBERT T. LEE
AGRI Party List

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "The Free Tertiary Agricultural Education Act."

SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to promote sound agricultural development in the country and to achieve global competitiveness in the agricultural sector. Towards this end, education and trainings on Agriculture shall be encouraged among the youth to inculcate the latest agricultural principles and techniques. The State, therefore, shall extend the avenue for this learning process by providing accessible education on agriculture and other related courses.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as:

1. **Qualified Dependent Children** – refers to the children of indigent farmers who are enrolled or about to enroll in State Colleges and Universities where Agriculture and its related courses are offered.
2. **Registered Indigent Farmers** – are those indigent individuals whose sole source of income is agriculture, who actually cultivate or till the land, whether as owner or lessee of the land, or who actually engage in crop production, livestock and poultry farming, and who are included in the registry of farmers of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

SEC. 4. *Implementation of Free Tertiary Agricultural Education.* – The DA, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall establish a scholarship program for Tertiary Agricultural Education. Qualified dependent children of registered indigent farmers intending to enroll or already enrolled in agricultural courses or any related field offerings in state colleges and universities shall be exempt from payment of tuition and other school fees and shall be entitled to such other incentives or subsidies, including living and transportation allowance, as may be granted in accordance with such rules and regulations to be promulgated to carry out the provisions of this Act. Provided, that they meet the admission requirements of the SUCs where they intend to enroll in.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the DA and the CHED shall issue the necessary guidelines, rules, and regulations for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act, or parts thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other portions.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, implementing rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *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,