

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3671



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez

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.

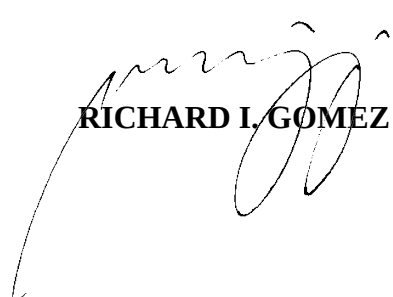
The combined consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global food crisis due to the war in Ukraine exposed the urgent need for the country to adopt resilient food systems and strengthen local food production. These challenges continue to hinder transportation of agricultural commodities and movement of farm manpower; thus food supply and its affordability remain at risk. Although the Province of Leyte is able to prevent the probable shortage, the threat remains present due to environmental catastrophes that may afflict the city. Historically, Leyte had experienced several of the worst typhoons in the country. With typhoons severely damaging the agricultural sector, crops are lost and the people are left with the burden of replanting their agricultural lands.

Furthermore, the City of Ormoc experiences rainfall throughout the year; and as presented in the 3rd National Seed Summit of 2014, heavy rainfall hinders seed delivery and limits seed production. With these difficulties, Leyte must be equipped to breed new varieties of seeds and boost food self-sufficiency to contribute in achieving food security and promoting sustainable agriculture. Hence, a provincial seed bank which can safely store varieties of quality seeds against

environmental hazards, conserve biodiversity, and allow for easy transport of quality seeds is an appropriate adaptation measure in the Province of Leyte.

Despite the environmental hazards, the Province of Leyte is committed to sustainable development by ensuring that people are given adequate, accessible, and affordable food. To further this commitment, it is crucial that agricultural initiatives are expanded. Hence, the establishment of a Provincial Seedling Bank in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte is hereby requested with the end goal of increasing our farmers' accessibility to high quality seeds and ensuring food security for the people of Leyte.

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



RICHARD I. GOMEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3671

Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PROVINCIAL SEEDLING BANK IN THE CITY OF ORMOC,
PROVINCE OF LEYTE 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 located in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte, to be known as Ormoc Seedling Bank for the purpose of ensuring the stable and continuous availability of quality seeds and the safety of plant food, with the end in view of safeguarding the plant industry.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture shall immediately include in the agency's programs the operationalization of the Ormoc Seedling Bank, the funding of which shall initially come from the savings funds of the 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.* If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and in 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 Clause.* — This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,