

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5248



Introduced by Hon. Julianne L. Baronda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the duty of the State to provide for the basic needs of its citizens. In line with this, the State shall form mechanisms to feed its people in an efficient and scientific manner with the aid of modern technology. The State shall likewise develop reforms for a cost-effective and environmentally safe agricultural methods to ensure the food security of the country.

A stable food security means a productive citizenry. It is the intention of this bill to ensure that children will be provided with the needed nutrients as they attend everyday classes, the poorest of the poor will be able to search for economic opportunities without being on an empty stomach, and our people will have the physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jam L. Baronda".

Rep. Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda
District Representative

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5248

Introduced by Hon. Julianne L. Baronda

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VEGETABLE CROP GARDENS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “**Barangay Food Security Act**”

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the duty of the State to provide for the basic needs of its citizens. The State shall form mechanisms to feed its people in an efficient and scientific manner with the aid of modern technology. Towards this end, the State shall develop reforms for a cost-effective and environmentally safe agricultural methods to ensure the food security of the country.

Sec. 3. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act,

- (a) *Municipal and City Vegetable Crop Garden* refers to any land or place for cultivation, growing, harvest, sorting and distribution of vegetable crops, maintained and operated by the *Sangguniang Bayan* or *Sangguniang Panglungsod*;
- (b) *Vertical Gardening* refers to the method of planting without being fixed to ground by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture which includes those that may be hanged or may be placed in pottery and can be moved from one place to another; and,
- (c) *Hydroponic* refers to the manner of growing plants without the use of soil.

Sec. 4. *Location.* – The *Sanggunian* concerned shall provide for a land suitable for growing vegetable crops which may be idle lands, public parks, public school grounds, or private lands with the consent of the owner thereof: *Provided, That*, in case no suitable land is available

within their jurisdiction, an infrastructure or building that can be used and devoted to vertical gardening or hydroponic shall be provided.

Sec. 5. *Crops.* – The Department of Agriculture shall conduct studies on the type of vegetable crops that will be best suited to the identified location, with considerations to survivability, sustainability and yield.

Sec. 6. *Resources.* – The seeds shall be provided by the Department of Agriculture and the tools shall be provided by the *Sanggunian* concerned.

Sec. 7. *Beneficiaries.* – The *Sanggunian* concerned, based on data of the Philippine Statistics Authority, shall select the Municipality's or City's ten (10) poorest Barangays to become beneficiaries of the harvest of the Municipal or City Vegetable Crop Garden. From the said Barangays, the *Sanggunian* concerned may employ indigents to regular or seasonal work in the Municipal or City Vegetable Crop Garden.

Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations of the agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government and Department of Agriculture, in consultation with local government units and Department of Science and Technology, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,