

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5755



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The **Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)** was created by virtue of Executive Order 116 signed in 1987 under the Freedom Constitution. Under this EO, the government addressed the lack of coordination and integration of agriculture research and development among the existing bureaus, councils, and agencies by creating BAR under the Research, Training, and Extension Group.

BAR's specific mandate to coordinate agricultural research was affirmed by EO 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987. BAR's specific mandate is to: "(1) ensure that all agricultural research is coordinated and undertaken for maximum utility to agriculture (Section 22)."

In 1997, **Republic Act 8435**, a landmark law also known as the **Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA)**, was enacted. This law affirmed the leading role of BAR in agriculture and fisheries research and development (R&D).

Executive Orders 127 (1999) and 338 (2000) further expanded the mandate of BAR to orchestrate, consolidate, and strengthen the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (**NaRDSAF**).

"The Bureau coordinates and funds agricultural and fishery research and development activities, develops partnerships and linkages with local and international research organizations, sources funds from local and foreign donor institutions, strengthens institutional capabilities of the agriculture and fisheries sectors, manages knowledge, facilitates technology utilization, and advocates policies toward improved governance and progressive agricultural and fishery sector value chain.

This House Bill seeks to provide **Modernization Funding** to the **Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)**, to lead the Research for Development (R&D) coordinating agency towards a technology-empowered agriculture and fisheries sector contributory to inclusive growth.

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Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5755

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR MODERNIZATION FUNDINGFOR THE **BUREAU
OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (BAR)**, INCREASING AND
REORGANIZING ITS ADMINISTRATION, TO CONSOLIDATE AND
STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY – It shall hereby be a declared policy of the State that the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research (**DA-BAR**) was created by virtue of Executive Order 116, series of 1987. Executive Order 292, otherwise known as the **Administrative Code of 1987**, mandates DA-BAR to "ensure that all agricultural research is coordinated and undertaken for maximum utility to agriculture (Section 22)."

The state shall continually improve the effectiveness of our Quality Management System towards equitable development for improved quality of life for all.

The state shall formulate policies for the efficient and effective administration and management of all manpower, skills and competencies to ensure compliance.

SECTION 2. MODERNIZATION FUNDING. – The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (**Php 500,000,000.00**) for the operation and administration of the **Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**. Thereafter, appropriations for the shall be included in the budget proposals under the Department Agriculture (**DA**).

The Department of Budget and Management (**DBM**) shall rationalize the existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the in accordance with the provisions of this Act and relevant compensation and position classification laws, rules and regulations.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (**GAA**).

SECTION 3. BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (BAR) MODERNIZATION FUND – There is hereby created the (**BAR**) *Modernization Fund* to be used exclusively for the (**BAR**) *Modernization Program*.

The (**BAR**) *Modernization Fund* shall be administered by the Secretary of the **DA** in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. PROGRESS REPORT – The Secretary of **DA** shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the (**BAR**) *Modernization Programs* which shall be submitted, to the Office of the President

and to the Chairpersons of the Committee of Agriculture and Food of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 5. PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of two **(2)** years:

Provided, that payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period:

Provided, further, That the **Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)** shall continue to develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

SECTION 6. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS. – The **Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)** shall continue to exercise and uphold the following powers and functions; but not limited to:

As the **DA** central coordinating agency for research and development, it undertakes the following strategic and priority R&D thrusts, programs, and functions, to wit:

- a) Promote the integration of research and development functions and enhance the participation of farmers, fisherfolk, the industry, and the private sector in the development of the national research, development and agenda;
- b) Prepare and oversee the implementation of a comprehensive program of R&D to enhance, support, consolidate, and make full use of the capabilities of the interlinked National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries, including the review and rationalization of the roles, functions, and

organization of the various agriculture and fisheries national research, development and extension institutions;

- c) Set policies in agriculture and fishery national research and development in order to ensure sustainable food security, alleviate poverty, promote people empowerment, agricultural productivity and development and promote internationally competitive agribusiness and fishery sector;
- d) Formulate policies for the operationalization and continued strengthening of the institutional capacities, efficiency, effectiveness and integration of the national research and development system, including the setting up of M&E system for the effectiveness and efficiency of its various components;
- e) Create committees, TWGs and Commodity Teams to facilitate the accomplishments of its objectives;
- f) Take the lead in drafting national research and development plans and programs for the NaRDSAF; and
- g) Set policies on the relations and exchange between Philippine and international institutions on agriculture and fisheries national research and development, and approve the allocation of funds from national as well as foreign sources for national research and development.

SECTION 7. INCREASE OF PERSONNEL. – The **Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)** shall maintain the sufficient staffing pattern. Hence, it is authorized to increase its manpower to meet such required and may

continue to increase personnel per percentage rate increase of committed mandates annually or as the need arises.

SECTION 8. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 10. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,