

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5756



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was reorganized in January 1987 under the *Executive Order No. 116*, the Bureau of Agricultural Extension (BAEx), the Philippine Agricultural Training Council (PATC) and the Philippine Training Centers for Rural Development (PTC-RD) merged, and paved the way for the establishment of the **Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)**.

The ATI started with ten training centers from the former PTC-RD when it became operational in 1987. A year after, the number of training centers nationwide rose to 26 when nine Regional Training Centers (RTC) and seven Farmers' Training Centers (FTC) were set up.

In 1989, there was a total of 41 training centers nationwide after seven FTCs, seven Regional Fishermen's Training Centers (RFTC) and the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH) were installed.

ATI's role as the DA's extension and training arm was strengthened with the **Republic Act 8435** or the **Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997**. But in November 1998, the RFTCs were turned over to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Also, the FTCs were renamed Provincial Training Centers.

At present, ATI, being the extension and training arm of the Philippine Department of Agriculture, is geographically situated nationwide to be able to reach its target clientele in the agriculture and fisheries sector. It has 16 regional training centers and one international training center, with its Central Office located at Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

This House Bill seeks to provide **Modernization Funding** to the **Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)**, to promote food availability and affordability for every Filipino family through excellent extension services in agriculture and fisheries.

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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 stroke extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5756

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR MODERNIZATION FUNDINGFOR THE
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (ATI), INCREASING AND
REORGANIZING ITS ADMINISTRATION, TO FOSTER THE
EMPOWERMENT AND BUILDING CAPACITIES OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES STAKEHOLDERS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT 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 By virtue of **Executive Order No. 116, series 1987**, the **ATI** was created to be responsible for the training of all agricultural extension workers and other AF clients; ensure that trainings address the real needs of the agricultural sector, and that research results are then communicated to the farmers through the appropriate training and extension activities.

Agricultural Fisheries Modernization Act (RA 8435) of 1997 stipulated that extension covers four (4) major services: trainings, farm and business advisory services, technology demonstration, and information, education, and communication (IEC) support services (Section 87). The **ATI** was assigned to

- a)** Formulate a national merit system governing all extension personnel, regardless of the source of funding, to promote professionalism and achieve excellence and productivity in the provision of the government extension services (Section 88);
- b)** Formulate and strengthen the National Extension System for Agriculture and Fisheries composed of three (3) subsystems: national government, local government, and the private sector subsystem (Section 89);
- c)** Encourage the participation of organized farmer groups in training and other complementary extension services, in which appropriate funding for such initiatives may be provided (Section 91);
- d)** Assist in the LGU's extension system, along with other bureaus and attached agencies of the DA as well as the state universities and colleges (SUCs), by improving their effectiveness and efficiency through capability-building and complementary extension activities such as technical assistance; training of LGU extension personnel; improvement of physical facilities; extension cum research; and information support services (Section 92);
- e)** Proposed for the allocation of multi-year budget that shall be treated as grants to the local government units (Section 93);
- f)** Formulate guidelines in evaluating extension activities and institutions, which shall involve an independent and interdisciplinary team of collegial reviewers and evaluators (Section 94); and
- g)** Develop an integrated multimedia support for national and LGU extension programs, in coordination with the public and private universities and colleges; assist the LGUs in the

computerization of communication support services to clients and linkages to the NIN (Section 95).

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 **Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**. Thereafter, appropriations for the **Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)** 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. AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (ATI) MODERNIZATION FUND – There is hereby created the (**ATI**) *Modernization Fund* to be used exclusively for the (**ATI**) *Modernization Program*.

The **(ATI)** *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 **(ATI)** *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 **Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)** shall continue to develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

SECTION 6. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS. – The **Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)** shall continue to exercise and uphold the following powers and functions; but not limited to:

Pursuant to **Executive Order No. 338, series of 2001** and **Executive Order No. 366, series of 2004** that led to the ATI's Rationalization Plan (2013):

- a) Lead in the formulation of the National AFE Agenda and Budget;
- b) Prepare an integrated plan for publicly-funded training programs in agriculture and fisheries;

- c) Formulate and issue guidelines in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating AFE programs; and
- d) In the coordination with SUCs, assist the LGUs' extension system by improving their effectiveness and efficiency through capability building and complementary extension activities such as technical assistance, training of personnel, improvement of physical facilities, extension cum research, and information support services.

SECTION 7. INCREASE OF PERSONNEL. – The **Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)** 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,