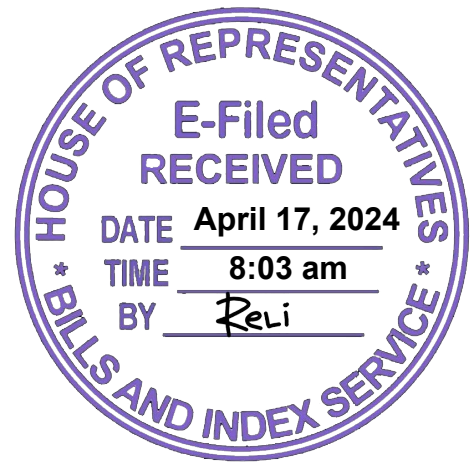


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10255



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Partylist Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has historically been one of the world's leading exporters of seaweed, a critical component in various industries such as food, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. The seaweed industry not only contributes significantly to the country's economy but also supports the livelihoods of numerous coastal communities. However, in recent years, the industry has faced challenges including environmental degradation, climate change, and the need for technological modernization to sustain its growth and competitiveness.

This bill seeks to revitalize the Philippine seaweed industry by promoting sustainable practices, advancing research and development, enhancing support for seaweed farmers, and improving market competitiveness. It aims to ensure the sustainable growth of the industry, safeguard the livelihoods of those dependent on it, and maintain the Philippines' position as a leading seaweed exporter on the global stage.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alfred Delos Santos".

ALFRED DELOS SANTOS

Republic of the Philippines
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 10255

Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
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**AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF
THE SEAWEED INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, ENHANCING
RESEARCH, SUPPORT, AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Seaweed Industry Development and Sustainability Act"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to revitalize and promote the sustainable development of the seaweed industry, recognizing its importance to the national economy and the livelihood of coastal communities, and to reassert the Philippines' status as a global leader in seaweed production and export.

SECTION 3. *Objectives* – The objectives of this Act are to:

- a) Encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly seaweed farming practices;

- b) Support research and development initiatives for the advancement of the seaweed industry;
- c) Provide comprehensive support and assistance to seaweed farmers and producers;
- d) Enhance the competitiveness of the Philippine seaweed industry in the global market.

SECTION 4. *Sustainable Seaweed Farming Practices* – The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), shall develop and promote sustainable seaweed farming practices, ensuring the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

SECTION 5. *Research and Development* – The DA, through BFAR and in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall initiate and support research and development projects aimed at improving seaweed production technologies, disease management, and product innovation.

SECTION 6. *Support and Assistance for Seaweed Farmers.* – The government shall provide comprehensive support to seaweed farmers, including access to quality seedlings, technical training, and financial assistance. Special emphasis shall be placed on small-scale farmers and community-based initiatives.

SECTION 7. *Market Competitiveness and Export Promotion* – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in collaboration with the DA and BFAR, shall implement strategies to enhance the market competitiveness of Philippine seaweed, including branding, marketing, and establishing trade partnerships to expand export opportunities.

SECTION 8. *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience* – Recognizing the vulnerability of seaweed farming to climate change, the government shall develop and implement strategies to increase the resilience of the seaweed industry to environmental challenges, including rising sea levels and increasing ocean temperatures.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The DA, in consultation with BFAR, DTI, DOST, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after its enactment.

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

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

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