

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 66



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is a refiled measure from the 19th Congress, where it was approved on Third Reading and subsequently transmitted to the Senate for its appropriate action. It was principally authored by Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo during the 16th to the 18th Congresses and was originally introduced in the 15th Congress by the late Hon. Pedro P. Romualdo. Both have represented the Lone District of Camiguin.

The bill seeks to simplify and modernize the publication requirements governing the disposition of public agricultural lands under Commonwealth Act No. 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act. These proposed amendments aim to make the process more efficient, cost-effective, and responsive to current realities.

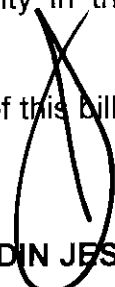
At present, the law mandates that notices for the sale of public agricultural lands be published for six (6) consecutive weeks in the Official Gazette, with optional translation into Spanish or the local dialect. These provisions are antiquated and have become impractical given the current costs, accessibility of publication platforms, and the linguistic realities of the Filipino public.

This bill proposes the following amendments to address these concerns:

1. Reduce the publication period in the Official Gazette from six (6) consecutive weeks to two (2) consecutive weeks, thereby expediting the disposition process and minimizing unnecessary delays;
2. Consider the removal of the option of publishing the notice in Spanish or the local dialect, considering that English and Filipino are the official languages most commonly understood and used in official transactions; and
3. Raise the threshold land value requiring publication in the Official Gazette and newspapers from Two Hundred Forty Pesos (P240.00)—an amount no longer reflective of current land valuations—to a more realistic Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

These amendments are intended to streamline bureaucratic processes, reduce publication costs, and align legal requirements with present-day conditions, all while maintaining transparency and accountability in the disposition of public agricultural lands.

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


JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

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AN ACT

SIMPLIFYING THE PROCEDURE IN THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 24 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “PUBLIC LAND ACT”

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 24 of Commonwealth Act No. 141 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 “SECTION 24. Lands sold under the provisions of this chapter must be appraised in
4 accordance with section one hundred and sixteen of this Act. The [Director of Lands]
5 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) shall
6 announce the sale thereof by publishing the proper notice once a week for [six] TWO
7 consecutive weeks in the *Official Gazette*, and in two newspapers, one published in
8 METRO Manila, and the other published in the municipality or in the province where the
9 lands are located, or in a neighboring province, and the same notice shall be posted on the
10 bulletin board of the [Bureau of Lands] CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DENR in Manila,
11 and in the most conspicuous place in the provincial building and the municipal building
12 of the province and municipality, respectively, where the land is located, and if
13 practicable, on the land itself; but if the value of the land does not exceed [two hundred
14 and forty] FIFTY THOUSAND pesos, the [publication in the Official Gazette and
15 newspapers may be omitted] SAME NOTICE SHALL BE POSTED IN THREE

1 CONSPICUOUS PLACES: BARANGAYS AND MUNICIPALITY WHERE THE
2 LAND IS LOCATED, AND ON THE LAND ITSELF, FOR THE NOTICE OF THAT
3 APPLICATION. The notices shall be published [one] in English, [and the other in]
4 SPANISH OR IN THE LOCAL DIALECT, and shall fix a date [not earlier than sixty]
5 THIRTY days after the date of the notice upon which the land will be awarded to the
6 highest bidder, or public bids will be called for, or other action will be taken as provided
7 in this chapter.”

8
9 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the DENR shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to
10 implement this Act.

11
12 SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts
13 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

14
15 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
16 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

17
18 Approved,