

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 159
—



Introduced by Representative Jose Manuel F. Alba

AN ACT

**MANDATING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
UNITS TO ALLOCATE AT LEAST 25% OF THEIR BUDGET FOR
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES FOR PRODUCTS MADE OF ENGINEERED
BAMBOO AND OTHER BAMBOO-BASED COMMODITIES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill seeks to address pressing concerns related to sustainable resource management, environmental conservation, and the promotion of innovative technologies within the public sector. As the Philippines continues to work towards achieving its sustainable development goals, the integration of bamboo-based products, particularly engineered bamboo, in government operations emerges as an effective and transformative strategy.

Bamboo, recognized as a renewable and rapidly regenerating resource, offers immense potential as a sustainable alternative to conventional materials, such as wood and steel. Engineered bamboo, characterized by its enhanced durability, strength, and versatility, presents an innovative solution for various applications, including furniture and fixtures. By mandating

government agencies to allocate at least 10% of their furniture and fixtures budget by 2030 to engineered bamboo and other bamboo-based products, this bill not only drives demand for eco-friendly materials but also stimulates the growth of the bamboo industry.

The bill aligns with global trends towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. By encouraging government agencies to prioritize bamboo-based solutions in their procurement processes, the legislation seeks to foster a culture of responsible resource utilization. This, in turn, contributes to the reduction of pressure on traditional wood resources, aids in combating deforestation, and enhances the country's commitment to mitigating climate change.

Furthermore, the bill acts as a catalyst for technological advancement and local economic development. The inclusion of engineered bamboo in government projects fosters the development of the bamboo value chain, from cultivation to processing, manufacturing, and distribution. This spurs job creation, particularly in rural areas, and supports the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in bamboo-related industries.

Moreover, the integration of bamboo-based products in government facilities showcases the Philippines as a leader in sustainable development and innovation. As the nation hosts international events and conventions, the utilization of bamboo reinforces the commitment to environmentally conscious practices, enhancing the country's image and reputation on the global stage.

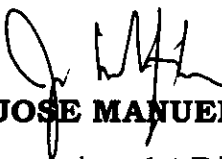
The bill emphasizes collaboration among government agencies, the private sector, research institutions, and local communities. It calls for the establishment of guidelines for procurement, quality standards, and the promotion of research and development in the field of bamboo engineering.

In conclusion, this bill represents a forward-looking and sustainable approach towards addressing resource scarcity, environmental degradation, and fostering economic growth. By mandating government agencies to allocate at least 10% of their furniture and fixtures budget by 2030 for engineered bamboo and other bamboo-based products, the legislation

envisions a future where innovation, environmental stewardship, and economic prosperity converge.

It is also essential to underscore that this bill was already deliberated upon by relevant government agencies and civil society groups during the 19th Congress, was approved by the House of Representatives, and was transmitted and received by the Senate of the Philippines.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



JOSE MANUEL F. ALBA

Representative, 1st District, Bukidnon

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Bamboo 2
Products Procurement Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote sustainable development, environmental conservation, and the utilization of renewable resources as part of its commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 sustainable development goals. Towards 8 this end, the State shall implement a procurement program geared towards responsible and sustainable consumption and production. As a bulk consumer of goods and services, the State shall use this power to stimulate the production and use of sustainable materials through the products or services it purchases or avails.

For this purpose, the State recognizes bamboo, a fast-growing and naturally renewable tree-like grass that requires very little maintenance to farm as it does not need any pesticide or herbicide, to replace traditional forest trees as material for furniture and fixtures as well as in the construction industry due to its tensile strength. Bamboo absorbs twice as much carbon dioxide as trees, with research showing that it can absorb as much as 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide per hectare 4 per year.

SEC. 3. *Allocation of Budget for Bamboo Products.* –

- (a) All agencies, departments, bureaus, offices, and instrumentalities of the national government, as well as local government units (LGUs), shall allocate 10 a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of their annual furniture and fixtures 11 budget for the procurement of engineered bamboo and bamboo-based products.
- (b) The allocation shall cover a wide range of engineered bamboo and bamboo-based products, such as:
 - (1) bamboo-based construction materials, including bamboo poles, boards, and laminates;
 - (2) bamboo furniture and fixtures;
 - (3) bamboo handicrafts and artworks;
 - (4) bamboo fiber and textiles;
 - (5) bamboo-based packaging and paper products; or
 - (6) bamboo charcoal and other value-added bamboo products.

SEC. 4. *Functions of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council.* – The Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council created 25 pursuant to Executive Order No. 879 on 14 May 2010, hereinafter referred to as the Council, in addition to its existing functions, shall undertake the following:

- (a) Implement programs to encourage and provide incentives to the private sector to develop, innovate, and create products using engineered bamboo and bamboo-based products;
- (b) Conduct annual fairs or exhibits showcasing products using engineered bamboo or bamboo-based products to create a venue for manufacturers of bamboo-based products to present their latest products, and designs, as well as stimulate interest for such products;
- (c) Develop a plan and program to increase the production of bamboo to provide a steady supply of raw materials for manufacturers and producers of engineered bamboo and other bamboo-based products;
- (d) Identify government lands, including reservations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and State universities and colleges (SUCs) that may be planted with bamboo;
- (e) Work with SUCs with academic programs on forestry and agriculture 41 to develop courses on the propagation of bamboo, develop the product as a viable alternative to hard wood, and other related courses; and
- (f) Monitor the compliance of government agencies and LGUs.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Council, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, and the Government Procurement Policy Board shall 6 issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. This shall include provisions on the proper identification, sourcing, and procurement of bamboo products, as well as mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the compliance of government agencies with the allocation requirement.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,