

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. **1406**

Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

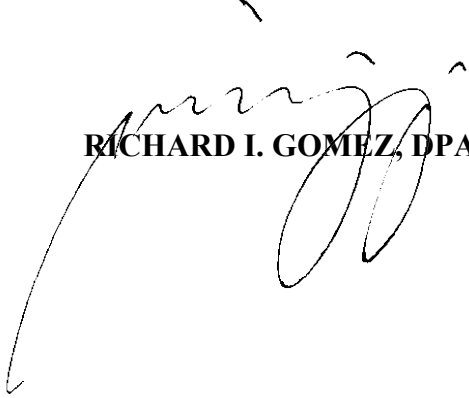
It is the policy of the State to promote and accelerate the development of the seed industry. Pursuant to Republic Act 7308, the government is mandated to conserve, preserve, and develop the plant genetic resources of the nation, encourage and hasten the organization of all sectors engaged in the seed industry, integrate all their activities and provide assistance to them, consider the seed industry as a preferred area of investment, encourage the private sector to engage in seed research and development and in mass production and distribution of good quality seeds, and provide the local industry protection against unfair competition from imported seeds.

The combined consequences of increasing global tariffs, climate change and rising fuel costs due to regional unrest expose the urgent need for the country to adopt resilient food systems and strengthen local food production. These challenges continue to hinder importation and transportation of agricultural commodities, thus food supply and its affordability remain at risk.

The City of Ormoc, being an agricultural city, is primed for the establishment of a seedling bank that can effectively support the local agricultural industry. Such a seedling bank could assist farmers with the propagation of crop varieties that could withstand the challenges of climate change. This could boost food self-sufficiency to contribute in achieving food security and promoting sustainable agriculture.

A provincial seedling bank that could safely store varieties of quality seeds against environmental hazards, conserve biodiversity, and allow for easy transport of quality seeds and seedlings is an appropriate adaptation measure in the Province of Leyte.

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



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PROVINCIAL SEEDLING BANK IN THE CITY OF ORMOC,
PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established and maintained, under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Plant Industry, a provincial seedling bank located in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte, to be known as Ormoc Seedling Bank for the purpose of ensuring the stable and continuous availability of quality seeds and the safety of plant food, with the end in view of safeguarding the plant industry.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture shall immediately include in the agency's programs the operationalization of the Ormoc Seedling Bank, the funding of which shall initially come from the savings funds of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the efficient operation and maintenance of said office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,