

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 3171



Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

AN ACT PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN FARMING IN THE METROPOLITAN AREAS TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The persistent challenges of global food price volatility, supply chain disruptions, and the economic aftershocks of recent global events have underscored the urgent need for enhanced food security measures, particularly within highly populated urban centers. In the Philippines, a nation with a large and growing metropolitan population, food insecurity and poverty remain significant concerns. A substantial portion of the urban populace, especially in Metro Manila, faces daily struggles to secure adequate nourishment.

While various government initiatives, such as the "Plant, Plant, Plant" program, have introduced urban farming concepts, there exists a critical need to institutionalize and expand these efforts into a comprehensive, government-supported framework. Urban farming, which includes a range of practices from backyard gardening to vertical and rooftop farming, presents a viable and sustainable solution to supplement household food sources and mitigate the impacts of rising food costs.

This bill, to be known as the "Urban Farming Act of 2022," seeks to address these concerns by establishing a clear and enduring policy to promote integrated urban farming. It proposes the creation of an **Urban Farming Program** to be led by the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with local government units. This program will be tasked with

providing essential support to urban farmers, including the provision of seeds, fertilizers, and technical training. It will also facilitate the creation of community gardens and marketing platforms for urban farm products.

To ensure effective implementation and strategic oversight, the bill further establishes an **Urban Farming Council**, composed of key government agencies, to formulate and direct the program's initiatives. A dedicated **Urban Farming Fund** will also be created to guarantee the necessary financial resources for these projects.

The institutionalization of urban farming through this legislative measure will empower urban communities to become more self-sufficient, reduce their vulnerability to external food shocks, and foster a more sustainable and resilient food system. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Poe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Poe" clearly legible.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LIAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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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 "Urban Farming Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote food security and reduce poverty by institutionalizing and expanding urban farming in metropolitan areas.

SECTION 3. Urban Farming. Urban farming is the cultivation of plants and raising of animals for food in cities and towns. It includes backyard gardening, community gardening, vertical farming, rooftop gardening, and other forms of agriculture in urban areas.

SECTION 4. Urban Farming Program. There is hereby created an Urban Farming Program, which shall be implemented by the Department of Agriculture (DA) in coordination with the local government units (LGUs). The program shall have the following objectives:

- a) Promote urban farming as a means of addressing food security concerns;
- b) Provide assistance and support to urban farmers, including but not limited to, the provision of seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, and other farm inputs;

- c) Establish and maintain community gardens and other urban farming projects;
- d) Conduct training and education programs on urban farming;
- e) Encourage the establishment of urban farming cooperatives and associations; and
- f) Develop and implement a marketing program for urban farm products.

SECTION 5. Urban Farming Council. There is hereby created an Urban Farming Council, which shall be composed of the following:

- a) The Secretary of Agriculture, as Chairperson;
- b) The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, as Vice-Chairperson;
- c) The Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority, as member;
- d) The Chairperson of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, as member; and
- e) The President of the League of Cities of the Philippines, as member.

The Council shall be responsible for the formulation and implementation of the Urban Farming Program.

SECTION 6. Urban Farming Fund. There is hereby created an Urban Farming Fund, which shall be used for the implementation of the Urban Farming Program. The fund shall be sourced from the following:

- a) The General Appropriations Act;
- b) Donations and grants from local and foreign sources; and
- c) Other sources as may be determined by the Urban Farming Council.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The DA, in coordination with the LGUs, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Poe", written in a cursive style.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

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