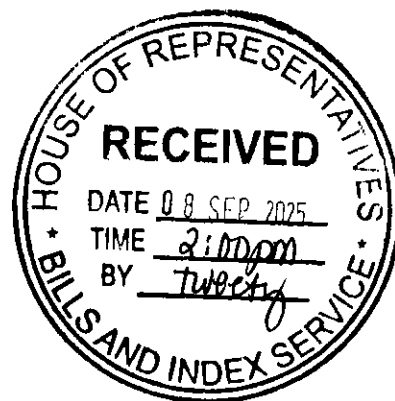


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4407**



Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

AN ACT
PROMOTING HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL FOOD PRODUCTION TO STRENGTHEN
FOOD SECURITY, PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 12 of the 1987 Constitution directs the State to “establish and maintain an adequate food supply at affordable prices.” The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food security as existing when *all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.*

Despite agricultural progress, many Filipino families remain food insecure. The Philippine Statistics Authority reports that about 19.9 percent of Filipinos lived below the poverty threshold in 2023, while child malnutrition and stunting persist in multiple provinces. Households in both rural and urban areas remain vulnerable to price shocks, disasters, and supply chain disruptions, such as those experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and recent episodes of food inflation.

Household-level food production is a simple but powerful strategy to directly strengthen food security at the family level. Backyard gardens, container and rooftop farming, and community plots increase food availability, improve access to fresh and nutritious produce, and reduce household expenditures on food staples. They also serve as immediate buffers in times of crisis — when markets are disrupted, mobility is restricted, or prices spike.

International experience confirms that household and community gardens can significantly contribute to nutrition and resilience. During the pandemic, urban gardening initiatives across Asia helped stabilize local diets. In Cuba, urban agriculture now supplies over 60 percent of Havana’s vegetables. Closer to home, LGU-supported gulayan programs in schools and barangays have shown measurable impact on children’s nutritional outcomes.

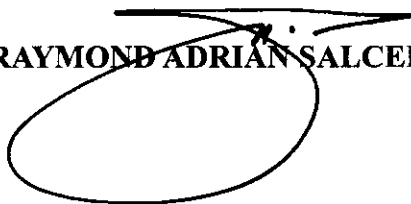
This bill institutionalizes a nationwide Household Food Security Garden Program, with the following features:

1. **Starter Kits and Support.** The Department of Agriculture (DA) will provide seeds, seedlings, compost, and guides to priority households, especially 4Ps beneficiaries, families in malnutrition “hotspots,” and those in disaster-prone communities.
2. **School and Barangay Gardens.** All public schools and barangay halls will maintain food gardens linked to feeding programs and community nutrition campaigns.
3. **Compost-to-Food Program.** LGUs will establish composting hubs to recycle household biodegradable waste into fertilizer for gardens.
4. **Training.** TESDA will offer short courses in urban gardening, container/vertical farming, aquaponics, and composting.

By enabling families to produce part of their own food, the measure reduces dependence on volatile supply chains, cuts food expenditures, and enhances the nutritional quality of diets. It complements existing programs such as the 4Ps and school feeding, while empowering households to take direct responsibility for their food security.

This is a low-cost, high-impact reform that leverages community effort, existing government extension systems, and local governance. Every vegetable grown in a backyard or rooftop is one less kilo to buy at inflated retail prices, and one more step toward resilient, self-reliant communities.

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


RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA

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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 “Household Food Security Gardens Act of 2025.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to guarantee food security by encouraging every Filipino household to contribute to its own food supply. The State shall support backyard, container, rooftop, and community gardening as low-cost, high-impact strategies to:

- (a) increase household food availability;
- (b) improve access to fresh and nutritious produce;
- (c) reduce dependence on food imports and long supply chains; and
- (d) enhance resilience in times of crisis or disaster.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act:

- (a) Household food garden refers to the cultivation of crops, herbs, fruits, or small livestock by families within or near their residence, using backyards, containers, rooftops, or shared community space.
- (b) Starter kit refers to a package of seeds, seedlings, planting materials, compost, and basic guides provided to households under this Act.

(c) Community composting hub refers to a barangay-level facility that processes biodegradable waste into fertilizer for use in gardens.

SEC. 4. Household Food Security Garden Program.

(a) The Department of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with local government units (LGUs), shall implement a nationwide Household Food Security Garden Program.

(b) Priority beneficiaries shall include: 4Ps households and indigent families; households in areas with high malnutrition prevalence; and disaster-prone communities.

(c) Each participating household shall be entitled to one (1) starter kit annually, subject to program guidelines.

SEC. 5. School and Barangay Gardens.

(a) All public schools shall maintain food gardens integrated with feeding programs.

(b) Barangay halls, evacuation centers, and government housing projects shall allocate garden space for community use.

SEC. 6. Compost-to-Food Program.

(a) LGUs shall establish community composting hubs to supply organic fertilizer for household and community gardens.

(b) Households shall segregate biodegradable waste for composting in accordance with RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act).

SEC. 7. Training and Capacity Building. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with DA, shall offer short courses in urban gardening, hydroponics, aquaponics, and composting for households and communities.

SEC. 8. Monitoring and Reportorial Requirement.

(a) LGUs shall submit annual reports on households covered, garden outputs, and nutrition improvements in their locality.

(b) The DA shall submit to Congress an annual consolidated report on program outcomes.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. The amounts necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DA and TESDA, and thereafter included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, the DA, in coordination with TESDA, DILG, and LGU representatives, shall issue the IRR of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, or rules inconsistent with this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,