

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5316

Introduced by HON. CIELO KRISEL B. LAGMAN

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is highly susceptible to various natural calamities due to its geological conditions. Being an archipelagic country located in the Pacific Ring of Fire and along the typhoon belt, the country is highly vulnerable to natural calamities such as typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. These recurring natural disasters gravely impact the agriculture sector which remains one of the most vulnerable and least protected sectors of our economy.

Among those most adversely affected are Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs), farmers who, despite being granted land ownership under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), continue to struggle with limited financial capacity, lack of access to credit, and absence of adequate safety nets in times of disaster. When calamities strike, these beneficiaries often suffer severe losses, not only of livelihood and crops but, at times, of life and limb.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a program of immediate financial assistance to ARBs who are adversely affected by natural calamities. Such assistance will serve as a temporary but vital relief measure that can help cushion the impact of income and production losses, allowing ARBs to recover faster and remain productive contributors to the agricultural economy.

In addition to financial assistance, the proposed measure provides for comprehensive insurance coverage for qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries. This insurance shall cover compensable losses resulting from natural calamities, including but not limited to typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Importantly, the insurance shall also cover loss of life and/or injury due to accidents, thus providing a more holistic form of social protection.

By extending full insurance coverage as an additional support service under the agrarian reform program, this bill aims to strengthen the resilience of ARBs to natural and accidental risks, reduce poverty in rural communities, and ensure that gains from land reform are not undone by environmental vulnerabilities.

Due to the importance and relevance of this legislative measure, it was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the 17th, 18th and 19th Congresses.

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



CIELO KRISEL B. LAGMAN

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HOUSE BILL NO. **5316**

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AN ACT
GRANTING FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ALL QUALIFIED AGRARIAN
REFORM BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM
PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9700, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1988”

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

SECTION 1. Section 37 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, is hereby further
amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 37. Support Services for the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries. – The
State shall adopt the integrated policy of support services delivery to
agrarian reform beneficiaries. To this end, the DAR, the Department of
Finance, and the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* shall institute reforms to
liberalize access to credit by agrarian reform beneficiaries. The PARC
shall ensure that support services for agrarian reform beneficiaries are
provided, such as:

“(a) x x x ;

“(e) x x x; [and]

“(f) x x x

“The Bagong Kilusang Kabuhayan sa Kaunlaran (BKKK) Secretariat shall
be transferred and attached to the LBP, for its supervision including all its
applicable and existing funds, personnel, properties, equipment and records. [.];
AND

“(G) FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COMPENSABLE LOSSES TO ALL QUALIFIED AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES, WHO ARE ACTUALLY TILLING THE LAND.

THE DAR SHALL PROVIDE THE PROCEDURES FOR SUCH REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION OF ACTUAL BENEFICIARIES AND FARMING INVESTMENTS AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY SUCH. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, “QUALIFIED AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES” SHALL BE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(b) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10000, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “AGRI- AGRA REFORM CREDIT ACT OF 2009”.

COMPENSABLE LOSSES INCLUDE THOSE RESULTING FROM:

- i. NATURAL CALAMITIES SUCH AS TYPHOON, FLOOD, DROUGHT, EARTHQUAKE, VOLCANIC ERUPTION, FROST, AND OTHER DESTRUCTIVE NATURAL PHENOMENA SUCH AS HEAT AND HOT WIND;**
- ii. PLANT DISEASES CAUSED BY PATHOGENS, BACTERIA, FUNGI, VIRUSES, VIRUS-LIKE PATHOGENS, AND OTHER SIMILAR FOREIGN BODIES;**
- iii. PEST INFESTATIONS CAUSED BY NEMATODES, INSECTS, MITES AND SPIDERS, MILLIPEDES AND CENTIPEDES, SYMPHYLANS, SLUGS AND SNAILS, SOW BUGS AND PILLBUGS, PARASITIC HIGHER PLANTS, AND OTHER PARASITES; AND**
- iv. LOSS OF LIFE OR INJURY TO THE QUALIFIED AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARY DUE TO ACCIDENT OR ANY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED CAUSES.**

“THE FOLLOWING CROPS AND OTHER FARMING AND FISHERY PRODUCE ARE COVERED:

- i. PALAY, CORN, SUGARCANE, HIGH-VALUE CROPS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 4(b) of REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7900, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘HIGH-VALUE CROPS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995’, COCONUT, TOBACCO;**
- ii. CROPS OR STOCKS IN FISHERIES FARMS;**
- iii. LIVESTOCK; AND**
- iv. NON-CROP AGRICULTURAL ASSETS USED IN ACTUAL**

**FARMING AND REPORTED TO AND CERTIFIED BY THE
DAR.**

"Misuse or diversion of the financial and support services herein provided shall result in sanctions against the beneficiary guilty thereof, including the forfeiture of the land transferred to him/her or lesser sanctions as may be provided by the PARC, without prejudice to criminal prosecution.

"THE SECRETARY OF THE DA AND THE SECRETARY OF THE DAR SHALL IMMEDIATELY INCLUDE IN THEIR DEPARTMENTS' PROGRAMS THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THIS INSURANCE COVERAGE, THE INITIAL FUNDING FOR WHICH SHALL BE CHARGED AGAINST THE CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIC) FOR THE REGISTERED BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE RSBSA. THEREAFTER, PROJECTIONS OF THE ANNUAL PREMIUM REQUIREMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY THE PCIC AND THE DAR TO THE PRESIDENT WHO SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT THE NECESSARY BUDGET FOR THE INSURANCE COVERAGE MANDATED IN THIS ACT: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN CASE OF INSUFFICIENCY OF THE INITIAL FUND TO COVER ALL QUALIFIED ARBS AND LEASEHOLDERS, COVERAGE SHALL BE PRIORITIZED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: FIFTY PERCENT (50%) TO THOSE NEWLY INSTALLED AND QUALIFIED ARBS WITH ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF LANDOWNERSHIP AWARDS (CLOAs) OR LEASEHOLD INSTRUMENTS, IN DESCENDING CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER; AND THE REMAINING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) TO THOSE EARLIEST INSTALLED AND QUALIFIED ARBS WITH ISSUED EMANCIPATION PATENTS / CLOAs OR LEASEHOLD INSTRUMENTS, IN ASCENDING CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER; *PROVIDED FURTHER*, THAT ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED ARBS AND LEASEHOLDERS SHALL BE COVERED YEARLY BASED ON ANNUAL PROJECTIONS, AND IN THE SAME MANNER AS PROVIDED, UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT ALL QUALIFIED ARBS AND LEASEHOLDERS ARE COVERED UNDER THIS ACT.

"FURTHER, A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THE FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE OF AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES (COCFICARB) IS HEREBY CREATED. IT SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND AGRARIAN REFORM OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, THREE (3) MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THREE (3) MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO BE DESIGNATED RESPECTIVELY BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES."

SEC. 2. Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DAR, shall, in coordination with the Land Bank of the Philippines submit to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the complete list of qualified ARBs and leaseholders to be included in

the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), their respective locations, and size of landholdings.

SEC. 3. Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the DAR, shall, in coordination with the DA, PCIC, and Department of Budget and Management, issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,