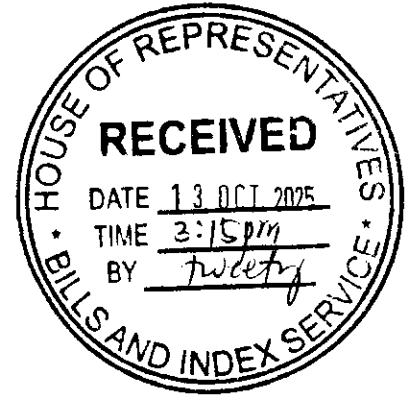




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5519

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
Third Congressional District, Camarines Sur

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure is fundamentally driven by the need to address the persistent marginalization of the nation's farmers, who, despite their indispensable role as the country's food producers, face some of the highest poverty incidence rates. These quiet frontliners endure the growing threats of climate change and natural calamities, making sacrifices that demand not just recognition, but tangible support.

The bill is also rooted in a solemn commitment to historical justice, serving to commemorate the tragic "Mendiola Massacre" or "Black Thursday" of January 22, 1987, where thirteen innocent Filipino farmers lost their lives while peacefully demanding genuine agrarian reform. This painful history underscores the necessity of legislative action to affirm the farmers' fight for a just and prosperous society.

By officially declaring January 22nd as National Farmer's Day, the bill aims to institutionalize collective recognition and transform commemoration into a strong call to action, mandating government agencies and communities to renew and uphold substantial, sustainable programs supporting our food producers.

This proposed measure is a refiled version of House Bill No. 7208, which was introduced in the 19th Congress by Representatives Arlene Brosas, France Castro, Raoul Manuel, Edward Maceda, and Mannix Dalipe. The bill was successfully approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives and subsequently transmitted to the Senate in March 2023.

In view of the indispensable role of our farmers, the pressing issues of food security, and the historical significance of the date, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, Third District, Camarines Sur



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**AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY TWENTY-TWO OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL FARMER'S
DAY**

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

SECTION 1. January 22 of every year is hereby declared as declared as a special working holiday in the entire country to be known as "National Farmer's Day", in honor of the strategic and indispensable role of farmers in the pursuit of a just, prosperous and democratic society.

SECTION 2. To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations especially those that are dealing directly with the farmers as well as local government units, and employers in the private sector shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity conducted within the premises of their respective offices or establishments in support and sympathy to farmers across the country to celebrate "*National Farmer's Day*".

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,