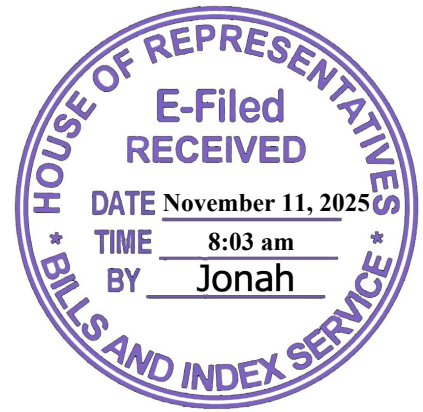


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5795



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to establish a comprehensive pension and social security system for farmers and fisherfolk in the Philippines.

Recognizing the vital role these individuals play in ensuring food security and contributing to the national economy, this legislation seeks to provide them with financial security during their retirement and in times of unforeseen circumstances such as illness, disability, or death.

By creating a stable and supportive framework, this bill aims to improve the quality of life for farmers and fisherfolks, encourage sustainable agricultural and fishing practices, and promote the long-term viability of these crucial sectors.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5795

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT PROVIDING AN AGRICULTURAL PENSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Agricultural Pension and Social Security Act of 2025."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the significant contribution of Filipino farmers and fisherfolk to the national economy and food security, in line with the government programs. As such, the State shall:

1. Strengthen the agriculture sector through the establishment of programs that will mitigate hunger, achieve food security, and improve the welfare of Filipinos;
2. Provide and institutionalize a comprehensive social protection and financial security to Filipino farmers and fisherfolk, especially during old age, disability, sickness, and other life contingencies, complementing the existing social welfare programs of the DSWD.
3. Promote sustainable and equitable development in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, ensuring that farmers and fisherfolk are not left behind in the country's progress.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as:

- **Farmer:** A Filipino citizen engaged in agricultural activities, including crop cultivation, livestock raising, and other related activities, either as a landowner, tenant, or lessee, and duly registered with the DA.
- **Fisherfolk:** A Filipino citizen engaged in fishing activities, including catching, gathering, or culturing fish and other aquatic resources, either as a boat owner, crew member, or independent fisher, and duly registered with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).
- **Agricultural Pension:** A regular payment made to retired Filipino farmers and fisherfolk who have met the contribution and eligibility requirements under this Act.
- **Social Security Benefits:** A range of benefits provided to Filipino farmers and fisherfolk, including but not limited to retirement benefits, disability benefits, sickness benefits, death benefits, and other welfare programs, administered in coordination with the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).
- **Covered Individual:** A Filipino farmer or fisherfolk who is registered and contributing to the Agricultural Pension and Social Security System as provided under this Act.
- **System:** The Agricultural Pension and Social Security System established under this Act.
- **Contribution:** The amount paid regularly by covered individuals and other sources to the System to fund the pension and social security benefits.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of the Agricultural Pension and Social Security System* - There is hereby established an Agricultural Pension and Social Security System (System) that shall be responsible for the administration and implementation of this Act. The System shall be a government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

SEC. 5. *Coverage* - All Filipino farmers and fisherfolk who are at least eighteen (18) years of age shall be eligible for coverage under this Act. Registration with the System shall be mandatory for all eligible individuals.

SEC. 6. Contributions :

- **Contribution Schedule:** Covered individuals shall contribute to the System based on a schedule to be determined by the System's Board of Trustees. The contribution schedule shall take into consideration the income levels and capacity to pay of farmers and fisherfolk, and shall be aligned with the microfinance programs of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP).
- **Government Subsidy:** The National Government shall provide a subsidy to the System to ensure its financial viability and to support the provision of adequate benefits to covered individuals. The amount of the government subsidy shall be determined annually and included in the national budget, sourced from the DA and BFAR budgets.
- **Other Sources of Funds:** The System may also derive funds from donations, grants, investment income, and other sources as may be allowed by law, including partnerships with private sector entities and cooperatives.

SEC. 7. Benefits - Covered individuals shall be entitled to the following benefits:

- **Retirement Benefits:** A monthly pension shall be paid to covered individuals who have reached the retirement age of sixty (60) years and have made the required number of contributions to the System.
- **Disability Benefits:** A monthly pension shall be paid to covered individuals who have become permanently disabled due to illness or injury, as determined by a qualified physician accredited by the Department of Health (DOH).
- **Sickness Benefits:** A daily cash allowance shall be paid to covered individuals who are temporarily unable to work due to illness or injury, for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days per year.
- **Death Benefits:** A lump-sum payment shall be made to the beneficiaries of a covered individual who dies, to help cover funeral expenses and provide financial assistance to the family.
- **Other Welfare Programs:** The System may establish other welfare programs and services for the benefit of covered individuals, such as livelihood training in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), healthcare assistance through PhilHealth, and educational scholarships through the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 8. *Management and Administration* - The System shall be governed by a Board of Trustees composed of the following:

- The Secretary of Agriculture, as Chairperson
- The Director of BFAR, as Vice-Chairperson
- The Administrator of the System
- Representatives from farmers' organizations accredited by the DA
- Representatives from fisherfolk organizations accredited by BFAR
- Representatives from the DSWD, DOH, and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

The System shall be headed by an Administrator who shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the System. The Administrator shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

SEC. 9. *Powers and Functions of the Board* - The Board of Trustees shall have the following powers and functions:

- Formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and implementation of this Act.
- Approve the System's budget and annual reports.
- Determine the contribution schedule and benefit levels.
- Invest the System's funds in accordance with sound investment principles.
- Promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Investment of Funds* - The System's funds shall be invested in a diversified portfolio of investments, including government securities, corporate bonds, and other financial instruments, in accordance with sound investment principles and subject to the limitations prescribed by law, ensuring that investments are aligned with the Philippine Development Plan.

SEC. 11. *Exemption from Taxes and Levies* - The System shall be exempt from all taxes, duties, fees, and other charges imposed by the National Government or any of its political subdivisions, as provided under existing laws. All benefits paid to covered individuals under this Act shall also be exempt from taxation.

SEC. 12. *Penal Provisions* - Any person who violates any provision of this Act or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder shall be subject to a fine of not less than PHP 50,000 or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board of Trustees shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and operative.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,