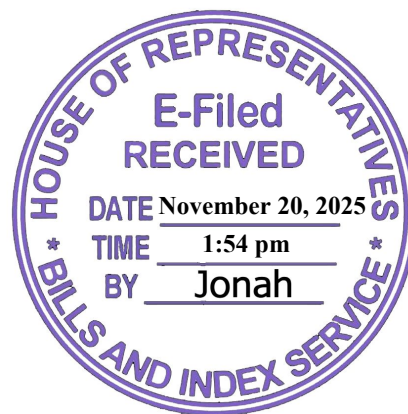


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6259



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE ONION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A study of the farming industries in the globe will reveal that establishing an onion industry can substantially benefit a country's economy. Australia, for instance, is an established onion producer that caters to both its domestic and export markets. Other countries with farming industries have relatively delved into onion production as well.

The Philippines, with all its farming background and setting can easily turn into a respectable onion producing country. However, a comprehensive study from the initial to the final stages of onion production has yet to be put forth, if any, or altered to attune to modern conditions in case of an underperforming onion industry in the country beckons.

The bill proposing to create the Philippine Onion Research Institute is the vehicle which will catapult the country's onion industry into a more progressive entity. An industry capable of serving the domestic and international markets, bring with it much-needed revenue, thus considerably uplifting the lives of Filipinos in the process.

The bill also aspires to establish and operate one central experiment station which will undertake extensive research in onion culture and production such as, but not limited to, feasibility studies on merchandizing onion farms, for example. The institute shall be placed under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the purpose of employing the expertise of said agency and to assure the successful implementation of the same. The DA as an administrative agency of the government is composed of experts in a specific field of specialization under its jurisdiction. Hence, the decision to place the aforesaid establishment under the supervision of the said agency certainly augurs well for the proposed bill.

The bill, in detail, intends to conduct all kinds of research work for the onion industry, aiming to discover and introduce processes that will improve productivity with such efficiency in all aspects of production. Moreover, the bill aims to establish and maintain a sustainable and balanced relation between production and consumption of onions in the domestic and foreign

markets in the process. All to be done at a projected reduction of cost, completing the metamorphosis of the country's onion industry.

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



MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

1st District of Nueva Ecija

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 6259

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE ONION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. *Name, Duration and Domicile.* – There is hereby created the “Philippine Onion Research Institute”, hereinafter called “PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE”, which shall be organized within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act and shall have its main office in an appropriate and suitable place in the Province of Nueva Ecija. This Corporation shall be under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 2. *Purposes and Objectives.* – The PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- (a) To conduct research work for the onion industry in all its phases, for the purpose of introducing such practices or processes that will reduce the cost of production, increase and improve productivity and achieve greater efficiency in the industry;
- (b) To improve existing methods of raising onions and onion production;
- (c) To ensure a permanent, sufficient and balanced production of onions for local consumption and exportation;
- (d) To establish and maintain a suitable and balanced relation between production and consumption of onions, and such marketing conditions therefore, as will ensure stabilized prices at a level sufficient to cover the cost of production plus a reasonable profit; and
- (e) To promote the effective merchandizing of onions in the domestic and foreign markets so that those engaged in the onion industry will be placed on a more economic stability and security.

CHAPTER II

POWERS

SEC. 3. *Specific and General Powers.* – To carry out the purposes mentioned in the preceding Section, the PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE shall have the following powers:

- (a) To establish, keep, maintain and operate one central experiment station to undertake extensive research in onion culture and production, including studies as to the feasibility of merchandizing onion farms, the control and eradication of pests, and the selection of high-yielding varieties of onions suited to the country's climatic conditions;
- (b) To acquire, obtain and purchase such machinery, materials, equipment and supplies as may be necessary to execute such researches and experiments work successfully;
- (c) To buy, sell, assign, operate, rent or lease any other equipment and materials for the production, manufacture, handling, transportation and warehousing of onions;
- (d) To grant loans, on reasonable terms, to planters when it deems such loans advisable; and
- (e) Generally, to exercise all powers necessary to carry out the purposes for which it is created, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

CHAPTER III

GOVERNING BODY

SEC. 4. *Composition and Appointment.* – All corporate powers of the PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE shall be vested in, and exercised by, a Board of Directors consisting of five (5) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines: *Provided*, That at least one of the members shall come from the Province of Nueva Ecija and the other one shall come from another onion-growing province: *Provided, further*, That three (3) members of said Board shall be appointed upon recommendation of the National Federation of Onion Planters: *Provided, finally*, That the Chairperson of the Board shall be elected by the members among themselves.

SEC. 5. *Tenure and Compensation.* – The members of the Board shall serve as designated by the President of the Philippines in their respective appointments for terms of two, four, and six years, respectively from the date they qualify and assume office. Compensation of the members shall be determined in accordance with existing laws.

SEC. 6. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors.* – The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To prescribe rules and regulations governing the manners in which the general business of the corporation may be exercised;
- (b) To appoint and fix compensation of the General Manager, other officers of the corporation, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board, by a vote of

majority of all members, may, for just cause, suspend and remove the General Manager and other officers of the corporation;

- (c) To approve the annual and/or supplemental budgets of the corporation which may be submitted to it by the General Manager from time to time; and
- (d) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the President of the Philippines or by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 7. *Suspension and Removal of Directors.* – Any member of the Board of Directors may, for cause, be suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines solely upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 8. *Prohibition for Board Members.* – No chairperson or member of the Board of Directors of this corporation shall at the same time serve in other corporation or agency in any capacity whatsoever, unless authorized by existing laws.

CHAPTER IV

MANAGEMENT

SEC. 9. *The General Manager.* – The management of the corporation shall be vested in the General Manager.

SEC. 10. *Powers and Duties of the General Manager.* – The General Manager shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) To direct and manage the affairs and business of the corporation in behalf of the Board of Directors and subject to its control and supervision;
- (b) To sit in all meetings of the Board and participate in the deliberations thereon, but without the right to vote;
- (c) To submit within six (6) days after the close of each fiscal year an annual report, through the Board of Directors, to the Secretary of Agriculture; and
- (d) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors from time to time.

CHAPTER V

CIVIL SERVICE LAW APPLICATION

SEC. 11. *Application of Civil Service Law and Regulation.* – All officers and employees of the corporation shall be subject to the Civil Service Law, rules and regulations, except those whose position may, upon recommendation of the Board, be declared by the President of the Philippines as policy-determining, primarily confidential or highly technical in nature.

SEC. 12. The financial transactions of the PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE shall be audited in accordance with existing laws and administrative regulations. A report of audit for each fiscal

year by the Auditor, through the Commission on Audit, shall be submitted to the Board of Directors, and copies thereof shall be furnished to the Secretary of Agriculture.

CHAPTER VI

FUNDING

SEC. 13. *Appropriations.* – To raise the necessary funds to carry out the provisions of this Act, an initial fund of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated, to be charged against the appropriations intended for the Department of Agriculture under the current General Appropriations Act. Revolving funds shall be derived from the contributions of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and from sources of foreign origin.

CHAPTER VII

LIQUIDATION

SEC. 14. *Liquidation.* – When its term or period of existence has expired in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall be liquidated in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations thereof.

SEC. 15. *Reversion to General Funds.* – All funds resulting from the dissolution and liquidation of the corporation as herein provided shall *ipso jure* revert to the General Fund of the National Government.

CHAPTER VIII

FINAL PROVISION

SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,