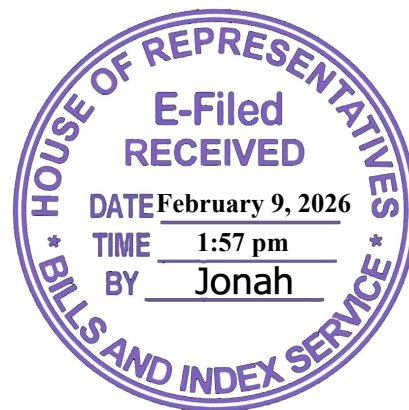




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7663



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
PROVIDING A MONTHLY PENSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY, DISABLED, AND INDIGENT FARMERS
WHO ARE NOT COVERED BY EXISTING RETIREMENT SYSTEMS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES TO BE KNOWN AS THE
“COMPREHENSIVE FARMERS’ PENSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
ACT”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

This bill seeks to implement the Farmers’ Pension Program through the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), which shall:

- Provide a monthly pension of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) to all qualified elderly farmers;

- Provide basic life and disability insurance to indigent and disabled farmers not covered by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or the Social Security System (SSS); and
- Institutionalize a Farmer Social Protection Database that will enable targeted health, housing, and livelihood support for qualified beneficiaries.

The creation of a pension program for qualified elderly farmers is crucial for providing financial security, reducing poverty, and ensuring a decent standard of living in their later years, as they are often considered among the poorest in society with limited access to formal, consistent income. Because many farmers face low, variable incomes and often work past traditional retirement age due to financial necessity, pensions offer a guaranteed, regular income source, reducing their dependence on family members or the need to sell off assets to cover living expenses.

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



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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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 “Comprehensive Farmers’ Pension and Social Protection Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to recognize and uphold the dignity and welfare of Filipino farmers, particularly those who have grown old

in service of national food security, yet remain excluded from formal retirement and insurance systems. The State shall ensure that aging, indigent, and disabled farmers receive guaranteed social protection.

SEC. 3. Objectives. - This Act aims to:

- a) Provide a monthly non-contributory pension of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) to qualified small farmers, categorized further as elderly farmers as defined under this Act;
- b) Extend basic life and disability insurance to indigent and disabled farmers not covered by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or the Social Security System (SSS);
- c) Institutionalize a Farmer Social Protection Database; and
- d) Strengthen local government unit (LGU) and agency coordination for service delivery to farming communities.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. –

- a) **Disabled Farmer** refers to a farmer with a medically certified physical or mental impairment, permanently or temporarily incapacitated for the performance of farm work in which he/she was habitually engaged;
- b) **Elderly Farmer** refers to a qualified farmer aged 60 years and above, not currently receiving any pension from SSS, GSIS, or similar private retirement systems;

- c) **Farmer** refers to any individual primarily and directly engaged in crop production, livestock raising, aquaculture, or other agriculture-related work, whether as landowner, tenant, or agricultural worker;
- d) **Indigent Farmer** refers to a farmer officially classified as such by their respective LGUs based on the data collection at the local level, supervised by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in accordance with Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise known as the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Act; and
- e) **Small farmer** refers to natural persons dependent on small-scale subsistence farming as their primary source of income and whose sale of agricultural products do not exceed a gross value of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Pesos (Php 180,000.00) per annum.

SEC. 5. Farmers' Pension Program. - The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), shall implement the Farmers' Pension Program, which shall:

- a) Provide a monthly pension of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) to all qualified elderly farmers;
- b) Provide basic life and disability insurance to indigent and disabled farmers not covered by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or the Social Security System (SSS);
- c) Begin disbursements upon verification of age, status, and lack of GSIS/SSS coverage; and

- d) Allow direct beneficiary or household member claims through accredited banks, cooperatives, or remittance centers.

SEC. 6. Farmers' Social Insurance Coverage. - All indigent and disabled farmers not enrolled in SSS/GSIS shall be covered by a government-funded insurance package, including:

- a) Basic life insurance amounting to at least Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00);
- b) Accident and disability assistance up to Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00) per eligible claim; and
- c) Access to burial benefits, emergency loans, and social case management.

Implementation shall be led by the PCIC, with premium subsidies sourced from this Act's appropriations.

SEC. 7. Farmers' Social Protection Database. - The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with DSWD, PhilSys, and local government units (LGUs), shall establish and maintain a national database of elderly, indigent, and disabled farmers, which shall:

- a) Validate and consolidate eligibility data;
- b) Prevent duplication and leakages in assistance programs; and
- c) Enable targeted health, housing, and livelihood support.

SEC. 8. Role of LGUs. - Local Government Units shall:

- a) Conduct annual validation and enumeration of eligible farmers;
- b) Assist in registration, documentation, and grievance redress mechanisms; and
- c) Integrate farmer pension data in Local Development Plans and social protection systems.

SEC. 9. Appropriation. - The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual budgets of the DA and DSWD under the General Appropriations Act. Additional resources may be sourced from:

- a) PCIC and DSWD social protection funds;
- b) Conditional grants or Official Development Assistance (ODA);
- c) CSR contributions from agri-business and cooperatives; and
- d) Revenue from Republic Act No. 11203 otherwise known as the Rice Tariffication Law.

SEC. 10. Penalties. - Any person, whether or not acting in conspiracy with public officials, who, by act or omission, inserts or allows the insertion of data or false information, or who diverts from what ought to be contained in the Farmers' Social Protection Database, with the view of altering the fact, or aiding in the grant of the pension to persons other than the qualified farmers, shall be penalized with imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than one (1) year, or a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) or both imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the court.

A public official or employee who commits any of the acts provided in the previous paragraph herein shall be penalized with temporary disqualification to hold public office.

Administrative sanctions shall be imposed without prejudice to prosecution in the proper courts, in accordance with the 2017 Revised Rules of Administrative Cases in the civil service and RA No. 11032 otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, DSWD, and PCIC, in consultation with LGUs and farmer organizations, shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,