

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7840



Introduced by **HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to reclassify and convert parcels of timerblands in the province of Camarines Sur into alienable and disposable lands to maximize the potential of the land for whatever legal and reasonable means to contribute to the economic development of the entire province. Furthermore, its reclassification and conversion will likewise support social justice, strengthen land tenure security, and prevent illegal encroachment on the land, as well as increase employment opportunities within the community, and improve and protect the land.

This kind of reclassification and conversion is embedded within the 1987 Constitution, specifically under Article XII, Section 2 which states that agricultural, forest or timber, and mineral lands may be reclassified into alienable and disposable lands. Under the Public Land Act, the President of the Philippines, through Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) is given the mandate to reclassify these lands.

Therefore, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. TERRY L. RIDON

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7840

Introduced by **HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

AN ACT RECLASSIFYING AND CONVERTING PARCELS OF TIMBERLANDS IN THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE PUBLIC LANDS

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to reclassify and convert certain parcels of agricultural lands into alienable and disposable public lands for the benefit of the communities within the province, consistent with the principles of sustainable development, environmental protection, support social justice and economic development, strengthen land tenure security, and prevention of illegal encroachment on the land.

SECTION 2. Reclassification of Certain Parcels of Timberlands. - Subject to the evaluation of the Department and Natural Resources (DENR), parcels of timberland in the entire Province of Camarines Sur are hereby reclassified and declared as alienable and disposable public lands.

SECTION 3. Technical Description of the Timberlands. - The specific metes and bounds of the parcels of timberlands in the entire province of Camarines Sur shall be determined, upon the evaluation and approval of the DENR. The final land technical description shall form part of this Act upon approval.

SECTION 4. Disposition of Lands. - The reclassified and converted parcels of timberland shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Public Land Act, as amended, and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Qualified bona fide residents and occupants who have been cultivating or residing in the area for the last ten (10) years prior to the effectivity of this Act shall be prioritized.

SECTION 5. Environmental Safeguards. - Areas who are classified as forest reserves or protected areas under Republic Act No. 11038 otherwise known as the *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018*, watersheds, riverbanks, and other environmentally critical areas shall not be covered by this Act to ensure that the reclassification shall not adversely affect ecological balance of the land and its environmental sustainability.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - DENR, in coordination with the local government of Camarines Sur, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,