

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8947



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate the appointment of a city or municipal agriculturist in local government units where agriculture is a significant industry or the primary source of livelihood. It amends Section 482(a) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*”. It aims to strengthen local agricultural governance by ensuring that qualified professionals lead the planning, implementation, and monitoring of agricultural programs at the local level.

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the Philippine economy, particularly in rural areas where it serves as the main source of income and employment. However, many cities and municipalities with strong agricultural sectors do not have designated agriculturists to provide technical guidance, coordinate programs, and support farmers. This gap weakens the delivery of essential services such as extension support, technology transfer, crop management assistance, and disaster response, ultimately affecting productivity and farmers’ incomes.

This measure addresses this concern by requiring local government units with significant agricultural activity to appoint a qualified agriculturist. Institutionalizing this position will ensure that local policies and programs are science-based, responsive to farmers’ needs, and aligned with national agricultural priorities. It also enhances coordination between local governments and national agencies such as the Department of Agriculture DA, thereby improving the efficiency and impact of agricultural interventions.

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


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT

MAKING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AGRICULTURIST MANDATORY IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE AND 482 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AS AMENDED

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

Section 1. Section 482 (a) of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as the "*Local Government Code of 1991*", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec 482. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. - (a) x x x

"The position of the agriculturist shall be mandatory for the provincial government and optional for the city and municipal governments: **PROVIDED, THAT INsofar AS CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY OR WHERE THE MAIN LIVELIHOOD IS AGRICULTURAL IN NATURE, THE APPOINTMENT OF A CITY OR MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST SHALL BE MANDATORY.**"

SEC. 2. *Implementing Agency.* - The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with local government units, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the general appropriations Act of the year following its enactment.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* - Other relevant provisions of RA No. 7160, as amended, insofar as the appointment of agriculturist is concerned, and any law,

decree, executive order, and rules and regulations, or portions thereof not consistent with this Act are hereby amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – Should any part or provisions of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,