



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 64

Submitted by the Committee on Agrarian Reform on September 29, 2022

Re: House Bill No. 5287

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 272, 2076 and 4276

Sponsors: Representatives Solomon R. Chungalao, Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, and Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Agrarian Reform to which were referred House Bill No. 272, introduced by Representatives Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata and Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON STATISTICS RELATING TO THE CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO NON-AGRICULTURAL USES INCLUDING A REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES”;

House Bill No. 2076, introduced by Representative Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING STRONGER MEASURES TO PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND REGULATE ITS CONVERSION FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES”, and

House Bill No. 4276, introduced by Representatives Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata and Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING STRONGER MEASURES TO PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND REGULATE ITS CONVERSION FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES”

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 5287 entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STRONGER MEASURES TO PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND REGULATE ITS CONVERSION TO NON-AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 272, 2076 and 4276 with Representatives Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, Solomon R. Chungalao, Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Wilton “Tonton” T. Kho, Angelo Marcos Barba, Joselito “Joel” S. Sacdalan, Robert Raymund M. Estrella, Felimon M. Espares, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo and Kristine Singson-Meehan as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:



SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO
Chairperson
Committee on Agrarian Reform

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

1 the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of agricultural land to non-
2 agricultural uses, and ensure that national government policies and programs
3 administered and implemented for the protection of agricultural land are
4 compatible with the development plans of the local government units (LGUs).

5 SEC. 3. *Conversion of Agricultural Land for Non-Agricultural Uses.* –

6 The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Agriculture
7 (DA) shall, in coordination with the national government agencies (NGAs) and
8 LGUs, develop criteria for identifying the effects of government programs on the
9 conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and undertake the
10 following measures:

11 (a) Identify the adverse effects of government policies and programs and
12 programs on the preservation of agricultural land;

13 (b) Consider alternative actions, as appropriate, to lessen such adverse
14 effects; and

15 (c) Ensure that the policies and programs of the National Government for
16 the preservation of agricultural lands are practicable and compatible with
17 the development plans of the LGUs.

18 For purposes of this Act, *agricultural land* refers to land devoted to the
19 cultivation of the soil, planting of crops, growing of fruit trees, raising of
20 livestock, poultry or fish, and other farm activities and practices performed by a

1 farmer in conjunction with farming operations of persons, whether natural or
2 juridical.

3 **SEC. 4. *Availability of Restorative Information.*** – The DAR and the DA
4 shall provide other NGAs, LGUs, organizations, and individuals all the necessary
5 and available information that are pertinent to the restoration, maintenance and
6 improvement of the quantity and quality of agricultural land.

7 **SEC. 5. *Review of Existing Policies and Procedures.*** – The DAR and the
8 DA shall, in coordination with the NGAs and LGUs, conduct a regular review of
9 existing laws and policies, administrative rules and regulations to determine
10 whether the existing provisions are in accordance with the provisions of this Act
11 and, whenever necessary, develop proposals and take appropriate action to bring
12 government policies, programs and administrative activities into conformity to
13 the purpose of this Act.

14 **SEC. 6. *Technical Assistance.*** – The Secretary of Agrarian Reform and the
15 Secretary of Agriculture and other department secretaries shall, whenever
16 appropriate, provide technical assistance to LGUs which intend to develop
17 policies or programs that regulate the conversion of prime agricultural land to
18 non-agricultural uses.

1 SEC. 7. *Agricultural Land Resource Information.* – The Secretary of
2 Agrarian Reform and the Secretary of Agriculture shall, in cooperation with other
3 departments and agencies of the government, design and implement educational
4 programs and materials emphasizing the importance of prime agricultural land to
5 the country’s well-being and distribute educational materials through mass
6 media, schools, organizations, and other government agencies.

7 SEC. 8. *Reportorial Requirement.* – The Secretary of Agrarian Reform and
8 the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit a report to the Congress of the
9 Philippines on or before January 31 of every year, through the Committee on
10 Agrarian Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on
11 Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform of the Senate of the Philippines, on the
12 implementation of this Act.

13 The annual report shall include an update and information on the effects, if
14 any, of government programs and administrative activities relevant to the
15 preservation of agricultural land; results of the reviews on existing policies and
16 procedures required under Section 5 of this Act and action taken to ensure its
17 observance; and statistical data on agricultural land conversion to non-
18 agricultural uses.

19 SEC. 9. *Limitations.* – This Act does not authorize the government to regulate

1 the use of private agricultural land and affect the property rights of owners of
2 such land. None of the provisions or other requirements of this Act shall apply to
3 the acquisition or use of agricultural land for national defense purposes.

4 SEC. 10. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid
5 or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in
6 full force and effect.

7 SEC. 11. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9 Approved,

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

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 5287
(In substitution of HB 272, 2076 and 4276)

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR STRONGER MEASURES TO PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL
LAND AND REGULATE ITS CONVERSION TO NON-AGRICULTURAL
PURPOSES “

Introduced by: Representatives Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco, Solomon R. Chungalao, Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Wilton “Tonton” T. Kho, Angelo Marcos Barba, Joselito “Joel” S. Sacdalan, Robert Raymund M. Estrella, Felimon M. Espares, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo and Kristine Singson-Meehan

Committee Referral: Committee on Agrarian Reform
Committee Chairperson: Rep. Solomon R. Chungalao

OBJECTIVES

- To preserve agricultural land and regulate land conversion for non- agricultural purposes.
- To prevent graft and corruption in agricultural land conversion due to conflicting laws, policies and administrative activities of government agencies.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Mandates the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and the Department of Agriculture (DA) to coordinate with national government agencies and local government units to develop the criteria for identifying the effects of government programs on the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses, and to use these criteria to identify government programs and policies that are contrary to the preservation of agricultural land, vis-a-vis its practicability and compatibility with the development plans of local government units.
- Provides for the review of existing policies and procedures that are not in consonance with the proposed Agricultural Land Preservation Act.

- Mandates the Secretaries of the DAR, the DA and other department secretaries to provide technical assistance to local government units in developing programs to regulate the conversion of prime agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.
- Mandates government agencies to design and implement educational programs and materials that emphasize the importance of prime agricultural land and to disseminate the educational materials through the mass media, schools, organizations and other government agencies.
- Directs the Secretaries of the DAR and the DA to submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on Agrarian Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform of the Senate of the Philippines on the progress made in the implementation of the law.

RELATED LAWS:

- R.A. No. 6657, *Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988*
- R.A. No. 9700, *Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms*
- R.A. No. 7160, *An Act Providing for a Local Government Code of 1991*