

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS )  
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )




Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2728

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Edgardo J. Angara

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

International scientists have identified the Philippines as the center of marine biodiversity in the world. Our coastal waters spanning 226,000 square kilometers contain one of the richest ecosystems distinguished by expansive beaches, corals, coral reefs, seagrass beds, estuaries, lagoons, foreshores and mangrove forests.

This richness can be attributed to the Philippines' strategic location. We are at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the global epicenter of marine life abundance and diversity. Within the Coral Triangle are 37 percent of all known coral reefs, 76 percent of all known coral species, the densest mangrove forests and the biggest tuna spawning and growth areas.

As a result, the Philippines owns one of the largest reef nations in the world, 71 percent of all known coral species and numerous other marine life species. Aurora, which is endowed with abundant marine resources, wants to be instrumental in protecting the country's aquatic wealth through the Aurora Marine Research and Development Institute (AMRDI).

This amendment to Republic Act No. 9441 more clearly defines the scope of the mandate of the AMRDI. Foremost among the AMRDI's functions is to conduct continuing research and experimentation on the propagation of marine species endemic to the waters of Aurora. This will help build up the local fishing industry and maximize technological capacity.

The AMRDI will also create and maintain a database on the biodiversity, habitat, abundance, seasonality and status of Aurora's marine resources, which will be an invaluable policy tool.

Furthermore, this amendment will ensure that the AMRDI can perform its mandate effectively with the expert guidance and

supervision of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute.

This bill also tasks the Aurora State College of Technology to act as the primary government institution responsible for implementing and enforcing the local academic and technical aspects of R.A. No. 9441.

Our country's natural resources is the cornerstone of our progress. Hence, its protection must be our utmost priority.


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

  
EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9441, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MARINE RESEARCH AND BREEDING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALER, PROVINCE OF AURORA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9441 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2

3 "SECTION 1. There is hereby established [under the supervision of the  
4 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture] a  
5 marine research and breeding center in the Municipality of Baler, Province of  
6 Aurora, TO BE KNOWN AS THE AURORA MARINE RESEARCH AND  
7 DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (AMRDI)."  
8

9 SECTION 2. A new provision is hereby inserted and shall read as follows:  
10

11 "SECTION 2. THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MARINE  
12 SCIENCE INSTITUTE SHALL SUPERVISE AMRDI IN ITS PERFORMANCE  
13 OF THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:  
14

15 a. CONDUCTING CONTINUING RESEARCH AND  
16 EXPERIMENTATION ON THE CULTURE AND  
17 PROPAGATION OF NATIVE MARINE SPECIES IN THE  
18 PROVINCE OF AURORA FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
19 IMPROVING EXISTING TECHNOLOGY AND FOR  
20 MAXIMIZING INCOME POTENTIALS OF THE COASTAL  
21 COMMUNITY AND FISHING INDUSTRY;  
22

23 b. CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPING HIGH-  
24 VALUE PRODUCTS FROM ENDEMIC MARINE AND  
25 AQUATIC SPECIES IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA;

- 1  
2 c. ENCOURAGING THE CULTURE OF NATIVE MARINE  
3 SPECIES IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA AND  
4 PROMOTING AND ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS  
5 THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES  
6 DEVELOPED BY AMRDI;  
7  
8 d. ENSURING THE STEADY SUPPLY OF SPAWNERS,  
9 FIRES AND FINGERLINGS TO THE FISHING  
10 COMMUNITY AND THOSE ENGAGED IN THE FISHING  
11 INDUSTRY;  
12  
13 e. PROVIDING THE DATABASE ON MARINE RESOURCES  
14 FOR POLICY FORMULATION THAT WILL STIMULATE  
15 AND SUSTAIN THE PRODUCTION OF MARINE  
16 FISHERIES AND PRODUCTS; AND  
17  
18 f. ORGANIZING, DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING  
19 CONTINUING INFORMATION CAMPAIGN, TRAINING  
20 AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ALL  
21 STAKEHOLDERS IN MARINE RESEARCH AND  
22 BREEDING TECHNOLOGY;

23  
24 SECTION 3. Section 2 of Republic Act No.9441 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
25

26 "SECTION [2] 3. The [Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the  
27 Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Province of Aurora]  
28 AURORA STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY (ASCOT) [is hereby  
29 authorized to] SHALL assist in the establishment and maintenance of such  
30 facilities and equipment as may be necessary to implement [the intents and  
31 purposes of] this Act. For this purpose, [the marine research and breeding center]  
32 AMRDI shall formulate such operating guidelines [as shall be recommended by  
33 the Department of Agriculture] for research and experimentation on, and the  
34 breeding, propagation and distribution of spawners, fry or fingerlings of marine  
35 species endemic to the waters around the Province of Aurora. FURTHER,  
36 ASCOT SHALL ACT AS THE PRIMARY GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION  
37 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOCAL ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL  
38 ASPECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF  
39 REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9441 AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND

1 REGULATIONS. FINALLY, ASCOT SHALL ALLOT AN AREA OF LAND  
2 WHERE AMRDI SHALL BE ESTABLISHED.”

3  
4 SECTION 4. Sections 3 and 4 of Republic Act No. 9441 are hereby deleted.

5  
6 [Section 3. The marine research and breeding center, with the technical  
7 assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of  
8 Agriculture, and such other agencies involved in marine research, shall conduct  
9 continuing research and experimentation on the culture and propagation of native  
10 marine species, especially as they apply to the peculiarities and characteristics of  
11 local conditions, for the purpose of improving existing technology and for  
12 maximizing income potentials of the fishing industry.

13  
14 Section 4. The marine research and breeding center, with the assistance of  
15 the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture  
16 shall take such steps as may be necessary to encourage the culture of marine  
17 species native to the province and thereby promote and attract investments in this  
18 field of economic endeavor by providing, through the facilities of the breeding  
19 component of the center, the application of the technologies developed by the  
20 research component of the center and ensure the ready and steady supply of  
21 spawners, fries, and fingerlings to those engaged in the industry.]

22  
23 SECTION 5. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9441 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24  
25 “SECTION [5] 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the  
26 [Department’s] BUREAU OF FISHERIES program the funding requirements for  
27 the establishment and operation of [the marine research and breeding center]  
28 AMRDI. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation and  
29 maintenance of [the center] AMRDI shall be included in the annual General  
30 Appropriations Act UNDER THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE BUREAU OF  
31 FISHERIES.”

32  
33 SECTION 6. *Implementing rules and regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the  
34 approval of this Act, the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the University of the  
35 Philippines Marine Science Institute and Aurora State College of Technology, shall formulate  
36 and adopt amendments to the existing rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No.  
37 9441.

1 SECTION 7. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 9441 is hereby amended as follows:

2  
3 "SECTION 6. [This act shall take effect upon its approval.] PENALTIES.  
4 – ANY VIOLATION OF THIS ACT OR OF ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES  
5 AND REGULATIONS SHALL BE PUNISHABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
6 EXISTING LAWS, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
7 7586, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED  
8 PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM ACT, OR PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.  
9 705, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY CODE,  
10 WHENEVER APPLICABLE.

11  
12 IF THE OFFENDER IS A JURIDICAL PERSON, ITS HEAD,  
13 PRESIDENT OR GENERAL MANAGER SHALL BE HELD LIABLE  
14 THEREFOR."

15  
16 SECTION 8. *Transitory Provisions.* – All existing contracts entered into pursuant to  
17 Republic Act No. 9441 and its implementing rules and regulations shall remain valid and  
18 effective, provided that a new agreement conforming to this Act and to the amended  
19 implementing rules and regulations shall be entered into between the parties concerned.

20  
21 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause* – Should any provision herein be declared  
22 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

23  
24 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules  
25 and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
26 modified accordingly.

27  
28 SECTION 11. *Effectivity* – This Act takes effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
29 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

30  
31 Approved,