

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUN 30 P5:57

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S E N A T E

S. No. 484

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was designed to uplift the Filipino farmers from poverty, ignorance and stagnation and to make them self-reliant, strong and responsible citizens. However, sixteen (16) years after its implementation, it is still far from full realization.

This bill seeks to complement the agrarian reform program by offering a progressive way to attain its goals and by tapping an overlooked resource of development.

Government assistance in the form of access to quality education should be extended not only to students but also to the youth who are in the agrarian reform through land grants, tree farms, forest projects, and agriculture-related projects.

From the elementary level, the youth will receive orientation to science and technology in agriculture. At the secondary level, they will actually enhance productivity through training in agricultural enterprise and transfer technology.

At the tertiary level, the youth scholar becomes a student-manager-entrepreneur with his college degree as the collateral for the funding of the agricultural enterprise.

The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for the implementation of this innovative and practical approach to educating the youth of the countryside.

This measure integrates the youth in our pursuit of economic recovery for the country. By arming the youth with skills and technology transfer, they will be true partners in development and nation building.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

S. Osmeña III
SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
PROVIDING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO YOUTH ENGAGED IN
AGRICULTURE TO MAXIMIZE PRODUCTIVITY, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. **Title-** This Act shall be known as the "Government
2 Assistance to Youth for Agricultural Productivity Act."

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to provide assistance to youth who are engaged in agriculture by providing
5 for skills in agricultural management and technology transfer appropriate to the
6 Philippines to the end that productivity will be maximized and youth can earn a
7 livelihood which will enable them to support themselves and their families and
8 improve their quality of life.

9 SEC. 3. **Definition of Terms.**

10 1. Youth Engaged in Agriculture shall include the following:

11 1.1. Agrarian Reform grantees and owners of farms below the age of
12 twenty-five (25) at the start of the program:

13 1.2. Heirs of agrarian reform grantees and owners of farm below five (5)
14 hectares or the successors in-interest of said grantees or owners who are below
15 the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the program or who are born after the
16 approval of this Act: Provided, That the heirs who shall actually farm the land

1 shall be entitled to tertiary education with tuition to be subsidized by the
2 Government;

3 1.3. Fisherfolk or forestfolk engaged in fishing or forest livelihood
4 activities who are below the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the program;

5 1.4. Heirs of said fishermen or forestfolk with tree farms less than five (5)
6 hectares who are below the age twenty-five (25) at the start of the program or
7 who are born after the approval of this Act; and

8 1.5. Youth entrepreneurs in agriculture-related enterprises and/or their
9 heirs who are below the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the program or are
10 born after the approval of this Act; Provided That the heirs operate the enterprise
11 or assist their parents or guardians in operating the enterprise upon the inception
12 of the tertiary curriculum.

13 2. Curriculum for Skills in Agricultural Management and/or Agricultural
14 Technology Transfer shall refer to:

15 2.1 Elementary Level- Government assistance shall include free
16 elementary education in public schools or under the Government Assistance
17 Program for Students and Teachers in Private Education up to completion of the
18 elementary grades: Provided, That pupils from grades four (4) to six (6) shall
19 receive in addition to the regular curriculum technology as applied and
20 appropriate to the agriculture and the particular farm, fishing ground, forest or
21 enterprise in which the agricultural workers of their heirs are engaged in.

22 2.2 Secondary Level- Government assistance shall include free
23 secondary education in public schools or under the Government Assistance
24 Program for Students and Teachers in private education up to completion of the
25 secondary level: Provided, That where possible the youth shall be enrolled in an
26 agricultural school or college or vocational school; and shall receive, in any case,
27 in addition to the regular curriculum on-the-farm or fishing grounds or forest, on-
28 the-job or agricultural enterprise training and appropriate transfer technology
29 training which will enhance the productivity of said youth: Provided, further, That

1 distance learning or other learning schemes may be utilized to carryout the intent
2 of this provision.

3 2.3 Non- Degree Post Secondary Level- Government assistance shall
4 include free agricultural courses relevant to the setting he is expected to return to
5 or is actually working on: Provided, That the youth shall be given the opportunity
6 of at least one (1) semester or summer at a government agricultural school free
7 of tuition and other school fees and one (1) project, also funded, school fees and
8 one (1) project, also funded, which will increase the productivity of the farm,
9 fishing, forestry activity or enterprise.

10 2.4 Tertiary Level- Government assistance shall include free tuition in a
11 government school, college or university and access to funding the agricultural
12 enterprise after completion thereof, with completed degree as collateral for the
13 funding of the productivity project: Provided, That where the youth is qualified he
14 shall be considered and given the opportunity for study abroad in settings similar
15 to an appropriate to the setting to which he will return.

16 2.5 Post- Graduate level. Government shall set up scholarships for the
17 high achievers in agricultural productivity and where feasible utilize his farm or
18 agricultural enterprise as a training ground for other youth under this program.
19 To the extent feasible, youth who have completed the bachelor's degree shall
20 be granted scholarships for post-graduate work and funding for a project on the
21 site where he is working, using his educational degree as collateral for the
22 same.

23 SEC. 4. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – There is hereby
24 created a Youth in Agricultural Productivity Council headed by the Secretary of
25 Agriculture and Food, with representatives from the Department of Education,
26 Culture and Sports, Agrarian Reform, Science and Technology and two (2) from
27 the private sector to be appointed by the President. The Council shall promulgate
28 rules and regulations to implement this program and adopt procedures and
29 guidelines to effectively carry out the program,

1 SEC. 5. **Funding.** – There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the
2 implementation of this Act the sum of the Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000) to be
3 included in the budget of the Department of Agriculture and Food for the initial
4 year of implementation. Thereafter, such amount as shall be needed for the
5 program shall be included in the budget of the Department of Agriculture and
6 Food.

7 SEC.6. **Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect upon its approval and
8 publication in at least one (1) national newspaper of general circulation.

9 Approved,