

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'14 JAN 22 P 2 :44

SENATE  
S. No. 2075

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Research suggests that earlier influences on a person will likely affect his future career considerations and interests. Studies have likewise estimated that money invested in quality early education leads to yields savings of about seven times that amount in education costs later in the child's life. This bill seeks to help improve the quality of Philippine education by providing for additional subjects on agricultural science in elementary and junior high school.

There is now a waning interest on the part of the youth in taking up farming as a vocation and this has resulted in the drop of enrollees in agricultural courses, which are offered primarily in state universities and colleges. Rex Bingabing, the executive director of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), said that aging Filipino farmers quitting has led to problems in some areas in the country, which could lead to a food crisis. He was quoted in saying that in many areas, we are already experiencing the effects of this scenario. In places in Central Luzon, farm owners are already having difficulty in finding farm workers during the time of planting and harvest.

While the government has yet to determine how many farmers are quitting because of old age, the preliminary results of the last Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed 624,000 workers losing their jobs during the period in review. This drop in the country's overall employment rate is due to the decline in employment in the agriculture sector, with the number of agricultural workers falling from an estimated 12.468 million in April 2012 to 11.844 million in April 2013, or by about 624,000 workers.

This bill will renew interest in crops and livestock cultivation to ensure the steady stream of students who will pursue agricultural science as a college degree, and eventually as a career in their professional life. This will ultimately strengthen our position as an agricultural country and ensure food stability and the availability of local experts on farming techniques and innovations.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT  
2 INTEGRATING AN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE SUBJECT IN THE  
3 PHILIPPINE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Agricultural  
5 Science Early Education Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote  
7 the general welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, this Act seeks to create  
8 an educational program to develop the foundation of learning among young  
9 children of the different studies of discipline in agricultural science.

10 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term

11 (A) “Agricultural science” refers to the study of the science and  
12 technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture, which  
13 is study of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock. It  
14 aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning the factors  
15 that affect the long-term well-being of agricultural resources, and places  
16 emphasis on the managed use of these resources;

17 (B) “Department” means the Department of Education; and

1 (C) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

2 SECTION 4. *Agricultural Science Subjects.* – The Secretary shall require the  
3 inclusion of a primary agricultural science subject in the senior year of elementary  
4 and an advanced agricultural science subject in one year in junior high school.

5 SECTION 5. *Program Requirements.* –The Agricultural Science Subjects  
6 described in Section 4 of this Act shall have the following minimum curriculum:

7 (A) Soils;

8 (B) The general structure and function of plants;

9 (C) Farm crops – cereal and roots;

10 (D) Farm crops – grasslands;

11 (E) Structure and function of the animal body;

12 (F) Common livestock;

13 (G) Agricultural Marketing practices.

14 SECTION 6. *Duties of the Secretary:* – In order to carry out the purpose of  
15 this Act, the Secretary shall:

16 (A) Formulate the necessary curriculum in the stated grade levels in  
17 consultation with the Department of Agriculture.

18 (B) Establish any other policies, procedures, or requirements, with respect  
19 to this educational program.

20 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held  
21 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise  
22 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

1           SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
2 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation  
3 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed,  
4 modified or amended accordingly.

5           SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
6 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,