

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



14 JAN 22 P2:52

SENATE  
S. No. 2077

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the 2012 Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, the agricultural sector employs an estimated 12 million people, making up 33 percent of the country's labor force. About 70 percent of the rural poor are farmers and fishermen.

Though the sector contributed about 11 percent to the country's GDP on 2011, government investment in the sector was only 4 percent of the national budget.

In that same year total government spending on agriculture was almost 24 percent lower than the previous year.

Experts say that weak government policies and programs, an excessive reliance on agricultural imports, and corruption, have taken their toll on the agricultural sector.

On the side of education, the average level of education of a farmer is grade five.

This bill aims to help the agricultural sector by providing social services to dependents of farmers. This will send a statement to the agricultural sector that the

state is serious in providing them with adequate support. It may also encourage their children to continue farming and help in the livelihood of the family.

*miriam defensor santia*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*ass.*

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1 AN ACT  
2 PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE DEPENDENTS OF FARMERS

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Social Services  
4 for Farmers’ Dependents Act of 2013.”

5 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term  
6 “Farming” or “agriculture” shall include farming in all of its branches and the  
7 cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing and  
8 harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural or horticultural  
9 commodities, the growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, the  
10 raising of livestock including horses, the keeping of horses as a commercial  
11 enterprise, the keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle and other domesticated  
12 animals used for food purposes, bees, fur-bearing animals, and any forestry or  
13 lumbering operations, performed by a farmer, who is hereby defined as one  
14 engaged in agriculture or farming as herein defined, or on a farm as an incident to  
15 or in conjunction with such farming operations, including preparations for market,  
16 delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market.

1 A "dependent" means a legitimate, illegitimate or legally adopted child  
2 chiefly dependent upon and living with the taxpayer if such dependent is not more  
3 than twenty-one (21) years of age, unmarried and not gainfully employed or if such  
4 dependent, regardless of age, is incapable of self-support because of mental or  
5 physical defect.

6 SECTION 3. *Farmers' Dependents Social Services Program.* – There shall  
7 be created a Farmers' Dependents Social Services Program which shall be in  
8 charge of the delivery of social services to the dependents of farmers and farm  
9 workers.

10 SECTION 4. *Farmers' Dependents Social Services Program Office.* –There  
11 is hereby created an Office in the Department of Agriculture that shall be  
12 responsible for the implementation of the Farmers' Dependents Social Services  
13 Program in Section 4 of this Act. It shall be in charge of the delivery of the  
14 following:

- 15 (A) Credit facilities during times of natural calamities such as typhoons,  
16 drought, and other similar events;
- 17 (B) Counseling and information dissemination on available healthcare  
18 for dependents;
- 19 (C) Coordinate with the Department of Social Welfare and Development  
20 in drawing and implementing plans for the promotion of the welfare of  
21 the dependents on farmers, particularly those who belong to the poorest  
22 of the poor;

1 (D) Prepare a report on the dependents of farmers who are in most need  
2 of assistance and to draw up a financial assistance package to be  
3 drawn from private contributors;

4 (E) Conduct seminars, trainings, and other related activities.

5 SECTION 5. *Funding.* – The Center shall have an initial funding of FIFTY  
6 MILLION PESOS (P50,000,000,000.00).

7 SECTION 6. *Incentives.* – In order to encourage private sector participation,  
8 all expenses incurred by any private individual, corporation, or a non-governmental  
9 organization, in the establishment of facilities or in the performance of services,  
10 including donations, which are consistent with the declared policies of this Act,  
11 shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income as defined  
12 under the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

13 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of  
14 Agriculture and the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall jointly  
15 issue the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of  
16 this Act within thirty (30) days from its date of effectivity.

17 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held  
18 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise  
19 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

20 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
21 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation  
22 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed,  
23 modified or amended accordingly.

1           SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
2 days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.