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SENATE
S.B. **2326**

Introduced by Senator Poe

**AN ACT
PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN FARMING TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY
CONCERNS AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
FOR THE PURPOSE**

Explanatory Note

Agriculture is the perennial backbone of Philippine economy. Using contemporaneous Philippine statistics, the sector employs almost a substantial 65-70% of our work force.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution for this purpose laid down some principles that accord relevance to Philippine agriculture (direct and indirect):

- “The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.” (Article II, Section 9);
- “The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.

The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full of efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. Xxx” (Article XII, Section 1)

This legislation is submitted as a tool to promote Philippine agriculture and as a small effort to address hunger and food security problem. This policy measure is a social justice bill.

It seeks to institutionalize integrated urban agriculture and vertical farming in the highly urbanized cities nationwide. Integrated Urban agriculture is the production, processing and marketing of food in response to the demand of consumers within a town, city, or metropolis, with the application of intensive production methods, such as the using and reusing urban sources and wastes, to yield a diversity of crops and livestock, This bill shall be known as “The Integrated Urban Agriculture Act of 2014”.

The urban poor are mostly handicapped in terms of education and job opportunities. The Integrated Urban Agriculture Act of 2013 will help them gain the benefits from urban agriculture, as it will continue to better livelihood by providing non-market access to food.

The world population will double in 50 years. Studies have shown that new land will be needed to grow enough food for everyone. Urban agriculture and farming will not only clean our environment but is will also avoid climate change. This proposed measure seeks to promote the use of urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's metropolitan areas to address food security concerns and regenerate ecosystem functions. It is now high time to combat the effects of over population and climate change.

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


GRACE POE

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SENATE
S.B. 2326

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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AN ACT
PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN FARMING TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY
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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
2 *assembled:*

3
4 **SECTION 1. *Short Title*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Integrated Urban*
5 *Agriculture Act of 2014*”

6
7 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to reaffirm
8 the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and to be free from hunger. The
9 achievement of self-sufficiency in food production and building climate resilient communities is
10 therefore adopted as primary state policy. Towards this end, key reforms for the development of
11 modern, appropriate, cost-effective and environmentally safe agriculture technologies are hereby
12 encouraged in order to ensure the food security of the country.

13
14 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms*** – For the purpose of this Act, the term:

15
16 3.1. “**Integrated Urban Agriculture**” shall refer to the practice of cultivating,
17 processing and distributing of food in, or around a village, town or city. Integrated Urban
18 agriculture also involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture.

19
20 3.2. “**Vertical Farming**” shall refer to the method of farming that is brought to the
21 urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in sky crappers and other modern
22 buildings.

23
24 **SEC. 4. *Comprehensive Research on Integrated Urban Farming*** – For purpose of this
25 Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of
26 Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to promote the use of integrated urban
27 agriculture and vertically farming in the country’s metropolitan areas as an instrument to address
28 food security concerns and regenerate ecosystem function of the Philippines.

29
30 Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either national and local
31 governments or available land resources in state universities and colleges shall be considered for
32 growing crops, raising livestock and producing food using the said methods.

33
34
35 Safety standards must be followed such that DOST and other pertinent agencies should
36 include research and development of appropriate technologies necessary in promoting integrated
37 agriculture technologies.

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1 **SEC. 5. Inclusion of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in Agricultural**
2 **Training** – Urban agriculture and vertical farming are used in agricultural production shall be
3 integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public and
4 private academic institutions studying courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics
5 and/or other subjects related to agriculture. A course curriculum on gardening/urban gardening
6 shall also be developed and included into the regular curriculum of both elementary and
7 secondary education.

8
9 All elementary and secondary schools, - public or private – state colleges and universities
10 shall implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular curriculum its practical or
11 on-hand application.

12
13 For universities and colleges, urban gardening or agriculture shall form part of the
14 required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training Program (NSTP) or
15 the Citizen Military Training (CMT). A plan therefore for the utilization or the maximizing space
16 occupied by schools shall be formulated specifically for urban gardening/agriculture.
17 Instructional materials shall also be developed.

18
19 The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on Higher
20 Education (CHED). Shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation
21 of this section within six (6) months from the date of effectively hereof.

22
23 **SEC. 6. Creation and Composition of the Urban Farming Council (UFC).** – There is
24 hereby established an Urban Farming Council (UFC) which shall be attached to the Department
25 of Agriculture. The UFC shall compose of the following members:

- 26
27 (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) who shall serve as Chair of the
28 UFC;
29 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
30 (c) The Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF);
31 (d) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
32 (e) The Representative from the People’s Organizations (PO);
33 (f) The Representative from the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO);
34 (g) The Representative from the National Urban Poor Sector Council of the National Anti-
35 Poverty Commission (NUPSC-NAPC);
36 (h) The National President of the League of the Cities of the Philippines;
37 (i) The National President of the League of the Municipalities of the Philippines; and,
38 (j) The Representative from the private sector who have an expertise in urban farming
39 and/or vertical farming.

40
41 **Section 7. Appropriation** –To allocate the amount equivalent to two percent (2%) of the
42 total budget in the annual general appropriations of the Department of Agriculture (DA),
43 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Education (DepEd),
44 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Interior and Local
45 Government (DILG).

46
47
48 **Section 8. Local Government Units Participation** – The local government units shall
49 formulate policy on the practise of urban farming, utilizing unused spaces and idle lands. This
50 shall require the enactment of local legislation institutionalizing urban gardening or agriculture in
51 all levels of the LGU. This also shall require local governments to enact measures or ordinances
52 that will include urban gardening/agriculture as regular component in budget appropriations of
53 local government unit.

54
55 All cities and urbanized municipalities where urban farming activities are conducted shall
56 extend whatever assistance necessary for the urban practitioners/farmers to exercise Urban
57 Farming and benefit from any incentives under this Act”

1
2 All homeowners associations, neighbourhood associations and community associations
3 and/or people's organizations are encourage participating in urban farming activities within their
4 area of operations. The concerned LGU shall grant a necessary incentives for the benefits of the
5 members of the concerned associations or people's organizations who actively participating in
6 urban farming activities.
7

8 **Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – Within six (6) months from the date of
9 affectivity of this Act, the DA, the DOST, the DepEd, the CHED, the DILG, and the National
10 Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) through the National Urban Poor Sector Council (NUPSC),
11 Private Sectors, Business Group, Input Providers, Consumer Groups, Informal Settlers and most
12 vulnerable Sectors, Non-Government Organizations and other stakeholders shall promulgate the
13 necessary implementing rules and regulations to *implement the provisions of this Act*.
14

15 **Section 10. *Seperability Clause*** – If any provision or part here of is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
17 valid and subsisting.
18

19 **Section 11. *Repealing Clause*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
20 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
21 with the provision of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
22

23 **Section 12. *Effectivity Clause*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date
24 of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
25 circulation.

Approved,