

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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'16 JUL 18 P6:23

SENATE

S. B. No. 406

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VEGETABLE GARDENS IN ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

Nutrition is one of the commonly overlooked issues among young children in the country today. It is therefore important to integrate school garden programs as part of the national effort to help ensure the development, nutrition and quality of education of Filipino children.

This measure seeks to establish a school vegetable garden or gulayan in every elementary and secondary school, whether private or public, and likewise prescribe the participation of parents and other members of the community in the conduct of educational programs related to nutrition education, basic pest management, food preservation techniques, composting and environmental conservation, among others.

Vegetables harvested from the garden may be also utilized to supplement feeding programs in each respective institution and in nearby areas. Feeding programs are power tools in alleviating short-term hunger and enhancing the learning capacity of children.

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


LOREN LEGARDA

Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Gulayan sa Paaralan Act”.

2
3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and
4 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness
5 among them. Towards this end the State shall adopt and put in place hunger
6 mitigation and poverty alleviation schemes to promote the nutrition, food
7 security, and economic stability of its citizens.

8
9 To ensure the fulfillment of this goal, all educational institutions shall be
10 required to include nutrition and health consciousness in their curriculum.
11 They are mandated to devote a reasonable portion of their school lots to serve
12 as instructional gardens for the growing of vegetables and other plants having
13 nutritional value.

14
15 **SEC. 3. Vegetable Garden; Definition.** – A vegetable garden shall refer to a
16 plot of school land or an area within a school devoted to the growing of
17 vegetables and other nutritional plants that promotes interactive, hands-on
18 learning in which pupils learn composting and waste management techniques,
19 fundamental concepts about nutrition and obesity prevention, and the cultural
20 and historical aspects of agriculture and food and its role in the national
21 economy.

22
23 **SEC. 4. Vegetable Gardens or Gulayan sa Paaralan Program.** – The
24 instructional gardens program shall be implemented in all elementary and
25 secondary schools, whether public or private. The schools shall devote a
26 portion of their school lots for the cultivation of vegetables and other nutrient
27 rich plants as identified by the Department of Health (DOH).

28
29 Schools lacking in land or those located in urban areas shall avail of
30 hydroponic gardening methods and other organic gardening technologies with
31 the assistance of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and other
32 government agencies.

1 **SEC. 5. Nutrition and Health Consciousness.** – It shall be mandatory for all
2 elementary and secondary schools to include nutrition and health
3 consciousness in its curriculum as well as the cultural and historical aspects
4 of agriculture and food production. This program shall be used to equally
5 enhance any subject area including science, environmental awareness,
6 mathematics, reading, writing, art, nutrition, physical education, history, and
7 geography.

8
9 The schools shall develop a system of involving the parents of their students
10 and the community at large in developing and maintaining its vegetable garden
11 program to promote awareness on health and nutrition as well as the economic
12 benefits of establishing a school, household and community garden.

13
14 **SEC. 6. Identification of Plot of Land.** – No school, elementary or secondary,
15 shall be established without first securing an endorsement from the Division
16 Superintendent attesting that a plot of land has been designated to form part of
17 a vegetable garden or an area has been identified where a garden using
18 hydroponic gardening methods and other organic gardening technologies shall
19 be located. The provisions of this section shall apply to schools seeking the
20 issuance of permits for their academic programs.

21
22 **SEC. 7. Tax Incentives.** – All allocations of grants, endowments, donations, or
23 contributions and technical assistance from private individuals persons to
24 schools and other educational institutions for this purpose as certified by the
25 Department of Education (DepEd), shall be exempt from taxes and duties.

26
27 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DepEd shall issue the
28 necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

29
30 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders,
31 proclamations and administrative regulations inconsistent with the provisions
32 of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

33
34 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** - In the event that any provision of this Act is
35 declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the
36 other provisions.

37
38 **SEC. 11. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
39 its complete, publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of
40 general circulation.

41
42 Approved,