

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

'04 AUG -3 P3:26

SENATE
S.B. No. 1631 RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

R.A. No. 6657, also known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, Section 3 (c) defines agricultural land as "land devoted to agricultural activity and not classified as mineral, forest, residential, commercial or industrial land."

The comprehensive agrarian reform program is easily circumvented due to the very narrow definition of agricultural land which specifies that the land must be "devoted to agricultural activity." Also, lands already covered by the program are easily reclassified and converted into non-productive even if irrigated or potentially irrigable.

This bill broadens the definition of agricultural land by including those lands which were previously devoted agricultural activities but which were left idle by their owners and lands which are irrigated and potentially irrigable as defined by Administrative Order No. 20 of the President, series of 1992.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657 ALSO KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE
AGRARIAN REFORM LAW

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 (c) of Republic Act No. 6657 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3. Definitions. For the purpose of this Act, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(c) Agricultural Land refers to land devoted to agricultural activity as defined in this Act and not classified as mineral, forest, residential, commercial or industrial land, AND ALL THOSE PREVIOUSLY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RECLASSIFIED INTO OTHER USES PROVIDED, THEY ARE IRRIGATED OR POTENTIALLY IRRIGABLE LANDS WITH FIRM FUNDING COMMITMENTS FOR REHABILITATION.

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administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,