

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**SENATE**

**S. No. 395**

---

Introduced by SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" EJERCITO

---

**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VEGETABLE CROP GARDENS FOR**  
**INDIGENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is an agricultural country blessed with vast fertile lands. We should take advantage of this assets and make them tools in providing food security for our less fortunate people.

This proposed measure does not only aim to provide food but also livelihood for those who are willing to till the soil. It also addresses the issue of nutrition for our people, most especially for indigents who seldom can afford healthy foods for their children. In totality, this Act would contribute in solving hunger, unemployment and malnutrition.

We shall give indigents the opportunity to work and cultivate land to grow crops and bring food to their homes. If this is done thru the guidance of our local government units, we would be one step closer in our dream of food security for our people.

Our people's economic situation almost always limits their capacity to grow and progress in life. Thru this Act, we provide them food that are nutritious so that we are not only filling up their stomachs but also strengthening their bodies and minds for work.

The food provided for them is the fruit of their own labor; they would cultivate the soil and work for their food.

Plants need sunlight to grow and so is our people. Our government shall serve as a guiding light for them to thrive and succeed in life. Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JV' with a horizontal line extending to the left and a vertical line to the right.

**JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" EJERCITO**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



SENATE

S. No. 395

---

Introduced by SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" EJERCITO

---

**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VEGETABLE CROP GARDENS FOR**  
**INDIGENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

- 1           Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "**Barangay Food Security**
- 2 **Act**"
- 3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the duty of the State to provide for the basic
- 4 needs of its citizens. The State shall form mechanisms to feed its people in an efficient
- 5 and scientific manner with the aid of modern technology. Towards this end, the State
- 6 shall develop reforms for a cost-effective and environmentally safe agricultural methods
- 7 to ensure the food security of the country.
- 8           Sec. 3. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act,
- 9           (a) *Municipal and City Vegetable Crop Garden* refers to land or place for cultivation,
- 10           growing, harvest, sorting and distribution of vegetable crops, maintained and
- 11           operated by the *Sangguniang Bayan* or *Sangguniang Panglungsod*;
- 12           (b) *Vertical Gardening* refers to the method of planting without being fixed to ground
- 13           by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture which includes may be hanged or
- 14           may be placed in pottery and can be moved from one place to another; and
- 15           (c) *Hydroponic* refers to manner of growing plants without the use of soil.

1           Sec. 4. *Location.* – The *Sanggunian* concerned shall provide for a land suitable for  
2 growing vegetable crops which may be idle lands, public parks, public school grounds, or  
3 private lands with the consent of the owner thereof: *Provided,* That, in case no suitable  
4 land is available within their jurisdiction, an infrastructure or building that can be used  
5 and devoted to vertical gardening or hydroponic shall be provided.

6           Sec. 5. *Crops.* – The Department of Agriculture shall conduct studies on the type  
7 of vegetable crops that will be best suited to the identified location, with considerations  
8 to survivability, sustainability and yield.

9           Sec. 6. *Resources.* – The seeds shall be provided by the Department of Agriculture  
10 and the tools shall be provided by the *Sanggunian* concerned.

11           Sec. 7. *Beneficiaries.* – The *Sanggunian* concerned, based on data of the Philippine  
12 Statistics Authority, shall select the Municipality's or City's ten (10) poorest Barangays to  
13 become beneficiaries of the harvest of the Municipal or City Vegetable Crop Garden. From  
14 the said Barangays, the *Sanggunian* concerned may employ indigents to regular or  
15 seasonal work in the Municipal or City Vegetable Crop Garden.

16           Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount necessary for the implementation of  
17 this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations of the agencies  
18 concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation  
19 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

20           Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the  
21 date of effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government and  
22 Department of Agriculture, in consultation with local government units and Department  
23 of Science and Technology, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively  
24 implement the provisions of this Act.

25           Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
26 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall  
27 remain in force and effect.

28           Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders and rules  
29 and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
30 repealed or modified accordingly.

1           Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
2 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

3

4           *Approved,*