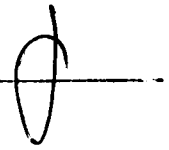


24 FEB -7 A10 :46

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2535

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF THE AGRICULTURE
PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A
PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD FOR AGRICULTURISTS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Based on the Labor Force Survey released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on August 2023, the services sector remained on top in terms of the number of employed persons, capping a share of 57.3% in the total number of employed persons, and with the agricultural sector accounting for a 24.5% share. The agricultural industry was also recognized as one of the five (5) sectors with the highest annual increase in the number of employed persons in August 2023, along with forestry.¹ While these figures represent the other major categories of agricultural or farm workers, they constitute another integral and essential part of this workforce - the registered and licensed agriculturists.

It was in 1997 when the move to professionalize the practice of agriculture began with the passage of Republic Act (RA) No. 8435 or the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997". This provided the impetus for the creation of the Board of Agriculture under the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the licensing of agriculturists in the country. However, unlike other PRC-regulated professions, the agriculture profession does not have its own enabling law or charter as it remains to be governed by a mere administrative issuance.² Moreso, many developments have changed the milieu of professional regulation, especially with the inception of the Continuing Professional Development, Philippine Qualifications Framework, among others, necessitating the review and updating of its governing regulatory framework.

In this regard, the proposed measure endeavors to establish a more relevant and responsive legal regulatory framework for the agriculture profession.

¹ PSA Press Release: Employment Rate in August 2023 was Estimated at 95.6 Percent (06 October 2023)

² PRC Resolution No. 2000-663: Creation of the Board of Agriculture under the Professional Regulation Commission and for other Purposes (15 May 2000)

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

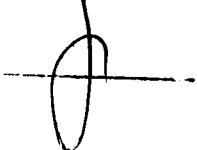


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES,
AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

1
2
3
4
5
6 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine
7 Agriculturists Act of 2024."
8

9 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the importance of
10 Registered Agriculturists in nation-building and development. Hence, it shall
11 develop and nurture competent, ethical, globally competitive, and well-rounded
12 Registered Agriculturists who shall observe the highest standards of excellence,
13 and whose professionalism shall be fostered through the administration of
14 transparent, credible and relevant licensure examinations, a system of
15 registration, and through continuing professional development programs and
16 activities.
17

18 **Sec. 3. Objectives.** - The Act provides for and shall govern:
19

20 (a) The examination, registration, and licensure of agriculture practitioners;
21

22 (b) The supervision, control, and regulation of the practice of the Agriculture
23 profession in the Philippines;
24

25 (c) The development and upgrading of the Bachelor of Science (BS) Agriculture
26 curriculum;
27

1 (d) The development of the professional competence of Registered Agriculturists
2 through Continuing Professional Development (CPD); and

3

4 (e) The integration of the agriculture profession.

5

6 **Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms
7 shall be defined as:

8

9 (a) Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) refers to the
10 professional organization that is accredited by the Board and the Commission
11 which is specifically mandated under this Act to integrate all Registered
12 Agriculturists into one national organization and where membership therein is
13 automatic and mandatory;

14

15 (b) Agriculture refers to the art, science, ethics, management, and
16 entrepreneurship in the production, processing, distribution, and marketing of
17 crop and livestock commodities, along with soil management and
18 mechanisms to mitigate the effects of climate change on the said
19 commodities;

20

21 (c) Agriculture-related degrees refer to the courses recognized by the Board as
22 allied to BS Agriculture for purposes of qualifying graduates thereof for the
23 Agriculturists Licensure Examination and Registration without Examination as
24 Agriculturists;

25

26 (d) Board refers to the Professional Regulatory Board of Agriculture;

27

28 (e) Commission refers to the Professional Regulation Commission;

29

30 (f) Practice of the Agriculture Profession refers to all activities, acts, services or
31 pursuits performed by Registered Agriculturists as herein prescribed or
32 specified; and

33

34 (g) Registered Agriculturist refers to a person who has been issued with a
35 Certificate of Registration (COR) and Professional Identification Card (PIC) to
36 practice the Agriculture profession.

37

38

39

40 **ARTICLE II**
41 **PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

42

43 **Sec. 5. Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board**
44 **of Agriculture.** - There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of
45 Agriculture, hereinafter referred to as the Board, under the administrative
46 supervision and control of the Professional Regulation Commission, hereinafter
47 referred to as the Commission. The Board shall be composed of a chairperson
48 and five (5) members. Each member shall represent one of the six (6) fields of
49 specialization listed in Section 14, Article III hereof. The chairperson and
50 members of the Board shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from
51 the two (2) recommendees for each position submitted by the Commission from
52 a list of three (3) nominees for each position submitted by the Accredited

1 Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) for Registered Agriculturists. In the
2 event that there is no AIPO or in case of failure or refusal of the AIPO to submit
3 Board nominees, the Commission may determine other sources of nominees,
4 including other professional organizations and the academe

5
6 The new Board shall be constituted within six (6) months from the effectivity of
7 this Act.

8
9 **Sec. 6. Qualifications and Disqualifications of the Chairperson and**
10 **Members of the Board.** - At the time of their nomination, the chairperson and
11 members of the Board must:

12
13 (a) be a natural-born Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines;

14
15 (b) be of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime
16 involving moral turpitude;

17
18 (c) be a member in good standing of the AIPO for Registered Agriculturists;

19
20 (d) be a holder of a degree in BS Agriculture, preferably with an MA/MS and/or
21 PhD in any agriculture discipline obtained from a school, college or university
22 recognized by the government. Provided, that each member of the Board
23 shall have served in any of the six (6) recognized fields of specialization in
24 Agriculture;

25
26 (e) be a Registered Agriculturist, with a valid COR and PIC, and with at least ten
27 (10) years of relevant experience in Agriculture;

28
29 (f) not be a member of the faculty, whether full-time or part-time, of any school,
30 college or university where a regular and/or review course in Agriculture is
31 taught, nor shall have any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in such
32 institution; and

33
34 (g) not be an incumbent officer or trustee of the AIPO for Registered
35 Agriculturists.

36
37 **Sec. 7. Powers and Functions of the Board.** - The Board shall have the
38 following powers and functions:

39
40 (a) Promulgate, administer and enforce rules and regulations, including the Code
41 of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Registered Agriculturists, to
42 carry out the provisions of this Act;

43
44 (b) Supervise and regulate the licensure, registration, and practice of Registered
45 Agriculturists;

46
47 (c) Determine and evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for issuance of the
48 COR, PIC and Special Temporary Permit (STP);

49
50 (d) Issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate the COR and PIC or STP for cause;

51

- 1 (e) Prepare and modify the questions for examination and prescribe the Tables of
2 Specifications (TOS) of the subjects for examination and their relative
3 weights;
4
- 5 (f) Administer the Oath of Professional;
6
- 7 (g) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of Agriculture, adopt measures
8 for the enhancement of the profession and the maintenance of high
9 professional, technical and ethical standards, and conduct inspection of
10 establishments where Registered Agriculturists practice their profession;
11
- 12 (h) Inspect, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),
13 the prescribed facilities of universities or colleges offering the course or
14 program of Agriculture in order to ensure that standards and essential
15 requirements for a qualified dean and faculty are properly complied with;
16
- 17 (i) Investigate violations of this Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations
18 (IRR), and the Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Registered
19 Agriculturists;
20
- 21 (j) Issue subpoena ad testificandum and subpoena duces tecum to secure the
22 attendance of respondents or witnesses or the production of documents
23 relative to the investigation conducted by the Board and the Commission;
24
- 25 (k) Prepare guidelines for the Continuing Professional Development (CPD), in
26 coordination with the AIPO for Registered Agriculturists; and
27
- 28 (l) Perform other powers, functions and duties as may be necessary to
29 effectively implement this Act.
30

31 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders and decisions issued or
32 promulgated by the Board shall be subject to the review and approval of the
33 Commission. However, the Board's decisions, resolutions or orders which are not
34 interlocutory rendered in an administrative case, shall be subject to review only if
35 on appeal.
36

37 **Sec. 8. Term of Office.** - The members of the Board shall hold office for a term
38 of five (5) years after appointment or until their successors shall have been
39 appointed and duly qualified. Provided, that members of the first Board to be
40 appointed after the approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms:
41 the two (2) members, one of whom shall be designated as Chairperson, shall
42 serve for five (5) years; two (2) members shall serve for three (3) years; and the
43 other two (2) members shall serve for one (1) year.
44

45 Each member of the Board may only be reappointed for one full term of five (5)
46 years.
47

48 A successor to a Member whose term has expired shall be appointed for the full
49 term of five (5) years from the date of expiration of the term for which the
50 predecessor was appointed.
51

1 Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term
2 only. Each member shall take an oath of office prior to the assumption of duties.

3
4 **Sec. 9. Compensation and Allowance of the Chairperson and Members**
5 **of the Board.** - The chairperson and members of the Board shall receive
6 compensation and allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances
7 received by the chairpersons and members of the other Professional Regulatory
8 Boards under the Commission as provided in the annual General Appropriations
9 Act.

10
11 **Sec. 10. Suspension and Removal of the Chairperson and Members of**
12 **the Board.** - The chairperson or member of the Board may be suspended or
13 removed by the President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the
14 Commission, for neglect of duty, abuse of power, oppression, incompetence,
15 unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct, commission or
16 toleration of irregularities in the conduct of examination or tampering of the
17 grades therein, or for conviction by final judgment of any criminal offense
18 involving moral turpitude, after having been given the opportunity to defend
19 oneself in a proper administrative investigation.

20
21 **Sec. 11. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat**
22 **and Support Services.** - The Board shall be under the administrative
23 supervision and control of the Commission. All records of the Board, including
24 applications for examination, papers and results, minutes of deliberations,
25 administrative and other investigative cases involving Registered Agriculturists,
26 shall be kept by the Commission.

27
28 The Commission shall designate the Secretary of the Board and other support
29 services to implement the provisions of this Act.

30
31 **Sec. 12. Annual Report.** - The Board shall, within thirty (30) days after the
32 close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the Commission, giving a
33 detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and
34 recommending measures to be adopted, with the end in view of upgrading and
35 improving the conditions and practice of the Agriculture profession in the
36 Philippines.

37
38
39 **ARTICLE III**
40 **LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION**

41
42
43 **Sec. 13. Licensure Examination.** - Unless otherwise provided, every applicant
44 seeking to be registered as an Agriculturist shall undergo a written examination
45 as provided for in this Act. Examination for the practice of the agriculture
46 profession in the Philippines shall be given by the Board at least once every year
47 in such places and dates as the Commission may designate.

48
49 **Sec. 14. Scope of Examination.** - A written examination shall be given to the
50 applicants for registration as Registered Agriculturists, the scope of which shall
51 include but not be limited to the six (6) foundation subjects as follows:

52
53 (a) Crop Science
54

- 1 (b) Animal Science
- 2
- 3 (c) Soil Science
- 4
- 5 (d) Crop Protection
- 6
- 7 (e) Agricultural Economics / Agribusiness / Agri-entrepreneurship; and
- 8
- 9 (f) Agricultural Extension and Communication

10

11 To conform with the technological and agricultural modernization, the Board may
12 re- cluster, re-arrange, modify, add to or exclude from any of the foregoing
13 subjects, as the need arises.

14

15 **Sec. 15. Qualifications of Applicants for Examination.** - In order to be
16 admitted to the Agriculturists Licensure Examination, an applicant, at the time of
17 filing of application, must be:

18

19 (a) a citizen of the Philippines or a foreign country which has a policy on
20 reciprocity for the practice of the Agriculture profession;

21

22 (b) a holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture or any related course from a
23 school, college or university recognized by the Government. Provided, that
24 the applicant has finished a minimum of thirty-six (36) units of agricultural
25 subjects, which shall include the six (6) foundation subjects under Section 14
26 hereof. The Agriculture-related courses herein referred to shall be jointly
27 determined by the Board and the CHED; and

28

29 (c) of good moral character and has not been convicted of any crime involving
30 moral turpitude.

31

32 An incumbent holder of any agriculture position in the national, regional or local
33 government offices or agencies including government-owned and –controlled
34 corporations and who has been engaged in agricultural functions acceptable to
35 the Board may qualify to take the Agriculturists Licensure Examination. Provided,
36 that they are holders of professional civil service eligibility and must have
37 finished a minimum of thirty-six (36) units of agricultural subjects, which shall
38 include the six (6) foundation subjects.

39

40 **Sec. 16. Ratings in the Examination.** - In order for an examinee to pass the
41 examination, the examinee must obtain an average of at least seventy-five
42 percent (75%) in all subjects, with no rating below fifty percent (50%) in any
43 subject. However, if an examinee obtains a general weighted average rating of
44 seventy-five percent (75%) or higher but obtained a rating below fifty percent
45 (50%) in any of the subjects, the examinee shall be allowed to take the
46 examination in the subject or subjects where he/she obtained a grade below fifty
47 percent (50%) only once in the immediately succeeding licensure examination.

48

49 An examinee who fails to pass the examination thrice shall be required to
50 undergo a refresher course equivalent to thirty-six (36) units before the
51 examinee shall be allowed to re-take the examination.

52

1 The Board shall prescribe specific guidelines for the implementation of the
2 refresher course requirement.

3 **Sec. 17. Release of the Results of Examination.** - The results of the
4 examination shall be released within fourteen (14) working days from the last
5 day of the examination, unless otherwise extended for a valid reason.

6
7 **Sec. 18. Registration without Examination.** - Upon approval of the
8 application and payment of the prescribed fees, an applicant may be registered
9 as an Agriculturist without examination if he/she can prove, to the satisfaction of
10 the Board, that he/she:

11
12 a) is a graduate of a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture, or any of the other
13 related baccalaureate programs from a school, college, or university
14 established or recognized by the government; and

15
16 b) has served the agriculture industry in any technical capacity from the
17 government or private sector for not less than five (5) years prior to the
18 effectivity of RA No. 8435 or the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act
19 of 1997" in December 1997 as certified in the service record(s) of the
20 applicant if a government employee, and/or as certified under oath issued by
21 an authorized official/officer of the firm, company or corporation if employed
22 in the private sector.

23
24 Qualified applicants shall be given three (3) years after the effectivity of the IRR
25 to file their applications for registration without examination. No application
26 beyond such period shall be accepted and entertained.

27
28 **Sec. 19. Oath.** - All persons qualified for registration, with or without
29 examination, shall be required to take an oath of profession before any Member
30 of the Board or any government official authorized by the Commission to
31 administer oaths prior to entering into the practice of the Agriculture profession.

32
33 **Sec. 20. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration and Professional**
34 **Identification Card.** - A COR shall be issued to a successful registrant, with or
35 without examination, subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the
36 Commission. The COR shall bear the signature of the chairperson of the
37 Commission and the chairperson and members of the Board, stamped with the
38 official seals of the Commission and the Board, indicating that the person named
39 therein is entitled to practice the Agriculture profession, with all the benefits and
40 privileges appurtenant thereto. The COR shall remain in full force and effect until
41 revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

42
43 A PIC bearing the registration number, and dates of issuance and expiry,
44 duly signed by the chairperson of the Commission shall likewise be issued to
45 every registrant upon payment of the required fees. Subject to compliance with
46 the prescribed requirements, the PIC shall be renewed for such period as may be
47 determined by the Board and the Commission.

48
49 **Sec. 21. Refusal to Register.** - The Board shall not register and issue a COR
50 to a registrant who has been convicted by final judgment by a court of
51 competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or found
52 guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board or has

1 been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be set
2 forth in writing.

3
4 **Sec. 22. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration,**
5 **Professional Identification Card or Cancellation of Special Temporary**
6 **Permit.** – The Board may, after due notice and hearing to the party concerned,
7 revoke the COR and PIC of a Registered Agriculturist or suspend him/her from
8 the practice of the profession or cancel his/her STP for any of the causes or
9 grounds under Section 21 hereof or for unprofessional or unethical conduct,
10 malpractice, or violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its IRR, Code of
11 Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Registered Agriculturists.

12
13 **Sec. 23. Reinstatement, Reissuance or Replacement of Certificate of**
14 **Registration and/or Professional Identification Card.** – The Board may
15 reinstate or reissue a revoked COR after two (2) years from the date of
16 revocation, upon petition and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient and, in
17 so doing, may exempt the applicant from taking another licensure examination.

18
19 In case of loss of the COR and/or PIC of any registrant, the circumstances
20 leading to the loss shall be duly proven.

21
22 The duplicate of a lost or revoked COR and/or PIC shall be issued in accordance
23 with the existing rules subject to the payment of the necessary and mandated
24 dues.

25
26 **Sec. 24. Issuance of Special Temporary Permit (STP).** - Upon application
27 and payment of the required fees and subject to the approval of the
28 Commission, the Board may issue an STP to a foreign Registered Agriculturist
29 whose services are urgently needed due to the absence or inadequacy of local
30 Registered Agriculturists for the purpose of promoting or enhancing the practice
31 of the Agriculture profession in the Philippines.

32
33 The Board shall issue the conditions for the grant of the STP, which shall include
34 but not be limited to the designation of local understudy for every foreign
35 Agriculturist to be employed or engaged in the Philippines.

36
37 **Sec. 25. Foreign Reciprocity.** - No foreign Professional Agriculturist shall be
38 admitted to the examination or be given a COR or PIC and be entitled to any of
39 the privileges under this Act unless the country of which the foreign Professional
40 Agriculturist is a citizen of specifically allows Filipino Registered Agriculturists to
41 practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the citizens of such
42 foreign country.

43
44
45 **ARTICLE IV**
46 **PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURE PROFESSION**
47

48
49 **Sec. 26. Scope of Practice of Agriculture.** – The Agriculture profession
50 involves services consisting of crop and livestock production, processing and
51 distribution, in both urban and rural areas.

52
53 A person shall be considered in the practice of Agriculture if the nature and
54 character of the work or employment requires professional knowledge in the field

1 of Agriculture as defined in Section 4(b), Article I of this Act. A person is also
2 deemed to be in the practice of the Agriculture profession if that person teaches
3 any Agriculture professional subject in a university, college or school or engages
4 in research in any Agriculture-related research or extension.

5
6 The foregoing list notwithstanding, other activities, which now or hereinafter may
7 require the application of knowledge, skills, training and expertise in Agriculture
8 shall be deemed to be within the scope of the practice of Agriculture and, as
9 such, shall be governed by the provisions of this Act.

10
11 **Sec. 27. Professional Title Appendage.** - Only a Registered Agriculturist as
12 herein defined may append to his/her names the title "Registered Agriculturist
13 (R.Agr)".

14
15 **Sec. 28. Prohibition Against the Unauthorized Practice of Agriculture**
16 **Profession.** - No person shall practice the Agriculture profession in the
17 Philippines or offer himself/herself as a Registered Agriculturist, or use the title,
18 word, letter, figure, or any sign tending to convey the impression that one is a
19 Registered Agriculturist, or advertise or indicate in any manner whatsoever that
20 one is qualified to practice the profession unless that person has complied with
21 all the requirements for registration, with or without examination, and is a holder
22 of a valid COR and PIC or a valid STP duly issued by the Board and the
23 Commission.

24
25 **Sec. 29. Act Not Affecting Other Professionals.** - This Act shall not be
26 construed to affect or prevent the practice of any other legally recognized
27 profession.

28
29 **Sec. 30. Prohibition Against Corporate Practice.** - A sole proprietor,
30 consulting firm, association, or organization may engage in the practice of the
31 agriculture profession in the Philippines. Provided, that it complies with the
32 following requirements:

- 33
34 a) That the firm, association, or organization is duly registered with the
35 Department of Trade and Industry, Securities and Exchange Commission, or
36 other appropriate agencies;
37
38 b) That majority of the officers and board members of the firm, association or
39 organization are Registered Agriculturists; and
40
41 c) That the practice of the consulting firm, association, or organization shall be
42 carried out by Registered Agriculturists.

43
44 **Sec. 31. Employment of Agriculturists in the Government.** - National
45 government agencies concerned in agriculture activities shall ensure that all
46 existing technical plantilla positions are occupied by Registered Agriculturists.

47
48 All existing technical plantilla positions of Provincial, City, and Municipal
49 Agriculturists Offices shall be occupied by Registered Agriculturists, including all
50 agriculture technical positions therein. For this purpose, a position is deemed to
51 be technical when the same primarily requires the professional knowledge and
52 skills of a Registered Agriculturist as may be determined by the Board.

1 All faculty members of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) teaching
2 agricultural courses shall be Registered Agriculturists.

3 The Board shall assist in the development of Position Classification Standards for
4 relevant government plantilla positions, in collaboration with Civil Service
5 Commission and other appropriate national and local government agencies.

6
7 **Sec. 32. Salary.** - The minimum base pay of registered Agriculturists working in
8 the government, including the SUCs, shall not be lower than Salary Grade 13.

9
10 **Sec. 33. Employment/Engagement of Agriculturists in the Private**
11 **Sector.** – Private agricultural corporations shall employ or engage the services of
12 Registered Agriculturists.

13
14 All corporate farms, golf courses, agri-tourism, agri-related
15 corporations/businesses and other similar institutions or facilities involved in
16 agriculture must employ or engage such number of Registered Agriculturists in
17 accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the Board and the Commission.

18
19 All faculty members of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) teaching
20 agricultural courses shall be Registered Agriculturists.

21
22 **Sec. 34. Integration of the Agriculture Profession.** - All Registered
23 Agriculturists shall have one (1) national organization, which shall be recognized
24 by the Board and the Commission as the only AIPO for Registered Agriculturists.
25 A Registered Agriculturist duly registered with the Board and the Commission
26 shall automatically become a member of the AIPO and shall receive all the
27 benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto, upon payment of the prescribed fees
28 and dues. Membership in the AIPO shall not bar membership in other
29 organizations of Registered Agriculturists.

30
31 Upon the approval of this Act, the Commission shall adopt rules to give effect to
32 the integration of the agriculture profession under such conditions as it shall see
33 fit in order to raise the standards of the profession.

34
35 **Sec. 35. Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Agriculture**
36 **Profession.** - The Board shall prescribe and promulgate the Code of Ethics and
37 Code of Technical Standards for Registered Agriculturists, in consultation with
38 the AIPO.

39
40 **Sec. 36. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program.** – All
41 Registered Agriculturists shall abide by the requirements, rules and regulations
42 on continuing professional development to be promulgated by the Board and the
43 Commission, in coordination with the AIPO of Registered Agriculturists and the
44 academe. For this purpose, a CPD Council shall be created to implement the CPD
45 program.

46
47 **Sec. 37. Use of Seal.** – Every Registered Agriculturist shall obtain a seal of
48 such design as the Board shall adopt and approve, which shall be affixed to or
49 impressed upon all documents, record, papers, and/or instruments prepared
50 by/or under the direct supervision of, or issued by the Registered Agriculturist.
51 The seal shall be used by the Registered Agriculturist only during the period of
52 the validity of his/her license.

53
54 The Board shall issue the pertinent guidelines on the use of seal.

1
2 **Sec. 38. Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Agriculturists.** – All
3 Registered Agriculturists who are registered at the time this Act takes effect shall
4 automatically be registered hereunder.
5

6
7 **ARTICLE V**
8 **PENAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**
9

10
11 **Sec. 39. Penal Provision.** - Any violation of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics
12 and Code of Technical Standards or other regulatory policies of the Board and
13 the Commission shall be meted the penalty of a fine of not less than One
14 Hundred Thousand Pesos (PHP100,000.00) or more than Five Hundred Thousand
15 Pesos (PHP500, 000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months or not
16 more than six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.
17

18 Officers of government agencies and private establishments, including sole
19 proprietorship, consulting firms, associations, and organizations responsible for
20 any such violation shall be held equally liable under this Act and such other laws
21 as the circumstances may warrant.
22

23 **Sec. 40. Appropriations.** – The chairperson of the Commission shall
24 immediately include in the Commission's programs the implementation of this
25 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
26 Act and thereafter.
27

28 **Sec. 41. Transitory Provision.** - The existing Board of Agriculture shall
29 continue to function in the interim until such time that the new Board shall have
30 been constituted pursuant to this Act.
31

32 **Sec. 42. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Board, subject to the
33 approval of the Commission, and in consultation with the AIPO, shall issue and
34 promulgate the IRR within one hundred twenty (120) days from effectivity of this
35 Act. The IRR shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in
36 the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general circulation in the
37 Philippines.
38

39 **Sec. 43. Separability Clause.** - If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of
40 this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not
41 affect, invalidate or impair any other part of this Act.
42

43 **Sec. 44. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
44 memorandum orders, and other administrative issuances or parts thereof which
45 are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby modified, superseded
46 or repealed accordingly.
47

48 **Sec. 45. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
49 its publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general
50 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,