

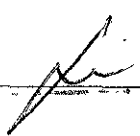
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

10 JUL 22 P5:35

SENATE
S. No. 1932

RECEIVED



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Reliable and accessible information on the weather is essential for agricultural producers. It is an important factor in crop planning and management. The type of crop to be planted is mainly dependent on existing weather and climactic conditions. Certain types of crops are suitable only for the wet season and will not thrive during the dry season.

Accurate weather information is also significant in minimizing the losses caused by extreme changes in the weather condition. These weather disturbances usually occur unexpectedly. Every year, agricultural crops worth millions of pesos are lost/damaged by such unforeseen weather disturbances. These losses are caused by the lack or inadequacy of weather information that will enable agricultural producers to take the necessary precaution against natural calamities.

This bill seeks the establishment of an Agricultural Weather Office which shall be responsible for the collection and distribution of weather information that will address the needs of agricultural producers.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

10 JUL 22 PM 3:35

SENATE
S. No. 1932

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago



1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURE WEATHER OFFICE

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Agriculture Weather
4 Information Act.”

5 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the term:

- 6 (A) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;
7 (B) “Director” means the Director of the Agriculture Weather Office; and
8 (C) “Office” means the Agricultural Weather Office

9 SECTION 3. *Establishment of the Agriculture Weather Office.* –

10 (A) *Establishment Required.* – The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish within the
11 Department of Agriculture an Agricultural Weather Office to plan and administer the National
12 Agricultural Weather Information System. The System shall be comprised of the Office
13 established under this section and the activities of the Regional Agricultural Weather Information
14 Systems described in Section 8 of this Act.

15 (B) *Director.* – The Secretary shall appoint a Director to manage the activities of the
16 Agricultural Weather Office and to advise the Secretary on scientific and pragmatic coordination
17 for climate, weather, and remote sensing.

1 SECTION 4. *Authority.* – The Secretary, acting through the Office, may undertake the
2 following activities to carry out the provisions of this Act:

3 (A) Enter into cooperative projects with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and
4 Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and other related government
5 agencies to —

6 (1) Support operational weather forecasting and observation useful in agriculture;

7 (2) Sponsor joint workshops to train agriculturalists about the optimum utilization
8 of agricultural weather and climate data;

9 (3) Jointly develop improved computer models and computing capacity; and

10 (4) Enhance the quality and availability of weather and climate information
11 needed by agriculturalists;

12 (B) Obtain standardized weather observation data collected in near real time through
13 regional Agricultural Weather Information Systems;

14 (C) Make, through the Department of Science and Technology, competitive grants
15 under Section 6 of this Act for research in atmospheric science and climatology;

16 (D) Make grants to eligible provinces under Section 8 of this Act to plan and administer
17 Regional Agricultural Weather Information Systems;

18 (E) Coordinate the activities of the Office with the weather and climate research
19 activities of the Department of Science and Technology; and

20 (F) Encourage private sector participation in the National Agricultural Weather
21 Information System through mutually beneficial cooperation with the private sector
22 particularly in the generation of weather and climatic data useful for site-specific
23 agricultural forecasting.

24 SECTION 5. *Weather Information Collection and Distribution to Agricultural*
25 *Producers.* –

26 (A) As one of the cooperative projects authorized by Section 4(1), the Secretary of
27 Agriculture shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Science and
28 Technology (DOST) to use PAGASA’s regional offices to collect, organize, and distribute

1 information aimed at meeting the short-term and long-term weather and climate information
2 needs of agricultural producers.

3 (B) *Information Collection.* – The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Science
4 and Technology shall jointly develop a system for the collection by the PAGASA of weather and
5 climate information that is relevant to agricultural producers and available through the
6 Agricultural Weather Office and other related agencies, regional agricultural weather
7 information systems and other State programs, colleges and universities, and the private weather
8 consulting sector.

9 (C) *Methods of Distribution.* – Weather and climate information collected under this
10 section shall be distributed to agricultural producers through the use of –

11 (1) Weekly publications containing weather forecasts and other information
12 regarding anticipated temperatures and precipitation levels;

13 (2) Toll-free and local telephone numbers that agricultural producers can call to
14 obtain immediate information to assist with specific day-to-day production
15 activities; and

16 (3) Such other methods as the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of
17 Science and Technology considers appropriate to distribute such weather and
18 climate information to agricultural producers in a timely manner.

19 (D) *Report.* – Not later than one (1) year after the date of promulgation of this Act, the
20 Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Science and Technology shall jointly submit a
21 report to Congress analyzing the effectiveness of the cooperative project required by paragraph
22 (A) of this Section, in providing relevant weather and climate information to agricultural
23 producers. The report shall include a description of the number of agricultural producers who
24 obtained weather information through the project and an estimate of whether the project
25 improved farm profitability for participating producers.

26 SECTION 6. *Competitive Grants Program.* –

27 (A) *Grants Authorized.* – With funds allocated to carry out this Act, the Secretary may
28 make grants to State agricultural experiment stations, public/private colleges and universities

1 other research institutions and organizations, private organizations and corporations, and
2 individuals to carry out research in all aspects of atmosphere sciences and climatology that can be
3 shown to be important in a basic and developmental way to understanding, forecasting and
4 delivering agricultural weather information.

5 (B) *Competitive Basis.* – Grants made under this section shall be made on a competitive
6 basis.

7 (C) *Priority.* – In selecting among applications for grants under paragraph (A) of this
8 Section, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals which emphasize —

- 9 (1) Techniques and processes that relate to weather-induced agricultural losses,
10 and to improving the advisory information on weather extremes such as
11 drought, floods, and storms well in advance of their actual occurrence;
- 12 (2) The improvement of site-specific weather data collection and forecasting; or
- 13 (3) The impact of weather on economic and environmental costs in agricultural
14 production.

15 SECTION 7. *National Advisory Board on Agricultural Weather.* –

16 (A) *Establishment Required.* – The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an Advisory
17 Board on Agricultural Weather (herein after referred to in this section as the “Board”) to advise
18 the Director of the Agricultural Weather Office with respect to carrying out the provisions of this
19 Act.

20 (B) *Composition.* – The Board shall be composed of nine (9) members, to be appointed
21 by the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with the Secretary of Science and Technology.
22 Four (4) members shall come from the private sector, two (2) of whom shall be agricultural
23 producers, and the other two (2), agricultural or atmospheric scientists.

24 (C) *Chairperson.* – The Board shall elect a chairperson from among its members.

25 (D) *Term.* – Each Board member shall be appointed for a three-year term, except that to
26 ensure that members of the Board serve staggered terms, the Secretary shall appoint three (3) of
27 the original members of the Board for a term of one (1) year and another three (3) of the original
28 members for a term of two (2) years.

1 (E) *Meetings.* – The Board shall meet not less than twice annually.

2 (F) *Compensation.* – Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but while
3 away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the
4 Board, members of the Board shall be allowed travel expenses, including *per diem* allowance in
5 lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as individuals employed in Government service are
6 allowed travel expenses.

7 SECTION 8. *Regional Agricultural Weather Information Systems.* —

8 (A) *Advisory Program Grants.* – Grants required. With funds allocated to carry out this
9 Act, the Secretary shall make grants to eligible provinces, each region (refers to the twelve (12)
10 regions of the Philippines and the autonomous regions created by law) to be represented by one
11 (1) province to plan and administer, in cooperation with persons described in the next paragraph,
12 advisory programs for regional agricultural weather information systems.

13 The persons referred to in the above paragraph are the Director of the Agricultural
14 Weather Office, the Director of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical
15 Services, and other persons as appropriate, such as the directors of the appropriate State
16 agricultural experiment stations and State extension programs.

17 (B) *Consultation.* – For purposes of selecting among applications submitted by provinces
18 for grants under this section, the Secretary shall take into consideration the recommendation of
19 the Advisory Board on Agricultural Weather and consult with the Director.

20 (C) *Eligibility Requirements.* – To be eligible to receive a grant under this Section, the
21 chief executive officer of a province shall submit to the Secretary an application that contains

22 (1) Assurances that the province will expend such grant to plan and administer a
23 Regional Agricultural Weather System that will –

24 (a) Collect observational weather data throughout the region and provide
25 such data to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and
26 Astronomical Services Administration and the Agricultural Weather
27 Office;

1 (b) Develop methods for packaging information received from the
2 national system for use by agricultural producers with the PAGASA
3 and the private sector to serve as the primary conduit of agricultural
4 weather forecasts and climatic information to producers; and

5 (c) Develop programs to educate agricultural producers on how to best use
6 weather and climate information to improve crop planning and
7 management decision; and

8 (2) Such other assurances and information as the Secretary may require by rule.

9 SECTION 9. *Appropriation.* – The amount of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) is
10 hereby appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act. Subsequent appropriations for the
11 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

12 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
13 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
14 valid and subsisting.

15 SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
16 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
17 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

18 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,