

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

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 26 4:49

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SENATE

S.B. No. 2056

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Introduced by Senator **EDGARDO J. ANGARA**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The new millennium poses bigger and even more difficult challenges. The increasing population puts more pressure on our natural resources. The twin demands of the environment and the people brings to fore the recognition of agroforestry as the key to resource rehabilitation, sustainable development and preservation of these natural resources.

Interestingly, the Philippines is one of the first countries to practice agroforestry. For a country with an estimated twenty million (roughly 24%) of its population living in the uplands, the magnitude of the practice of agroforestry cannot be overstressed. As a land-use management system, agroforestry is new market opportunities, new business investments, sustainable agricultures, land stewardship, habitat for wildlife, improved water quality, and diversified farm income.

In particular, agroforestry practices help landowners to diversify products, markets, and farm income; improve soil and water quality; reduce erosion, non-point source pollution and damage due to flooding; enhance land and aquatic habitats for fish and wildlife; and improve biodiversity while sustaining land resources for generations to come. A critical mass of quality agroforestry practitioners, therefore, is necessary to advance agroforestry systems and practices to a scale significant for improving the quality of lives in the upland and throughout the landscape.

Yet, despite its irrefutable importance in the country's drive for sustainable agricultural development, agroforestry face a challenge in integrating itself as a profession/field of endeavor in the country's policies. To address the increasing demand for field technicians equipped with the needed agroforestry knowledge and skills, this unique field, which is neither Agriculture nor Forestry demand its recognition as a new and separate occupational cluster of study

Although it has been considered as the main production technology / tool in the implementation of the Community-Based Forest Management Program as exemplified in Executive Order No. 263 series of 1995, and is among the fields of agriculture and fisheries that is exemplified in the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997, there is an evident lack of a governing body that will assess, evaluate, standardize, and enhance the Agroforestry curriculum.


This brings to fore the necessity of this measure.

It is envisioned that this bill would establish the distinct role of agroforestry as a science and as a profession in providing the farm households with stable and ready source of sufficient food to reduce the upland farmers' food insecurity. After all, agroforestry is an essential part of the effort to feed the people in our uplands by allowing the production of "more food on less land and less labor."

Approval of the measure is earnestly sought.

  
**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**

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AN ACT  
TO STANDARDIZE AND ENHANCE THE PRACTICE OF AGROFORESTRY  
IN THE COUNTRY, CREATING THE BOARD OF AGROFORESTRY UNDER  
THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES  
AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Agro*  
6 *forestry Act of 2010.*"

7  
8 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
9 respond to the need of professionalizing the field of agroforestry in the country as a tool  
10 towards sustainable socio-economic development and environmental protection.

11  
12 Toward this end, the State shall establish and maintain a Board of Agroforestry that  
13 shall conduct, among others, a national board examination to all graduates of a four-year  
14 degree program in agroforestry or its equivalent, regulate, and sustain the practice of the  
15 profession for efficient and effective public service.

16  
17 SEC 3. *Objectives.* This Act shall provide for and govern:  
18

- 1 a) The standardization and regulation of agroforestry education;
- 2 b) The giving of licensure examinations to graduates of recognized agroforestry
- 3 schools for the purpose of registration;
- 4 c) The promotion and development of agroforestry research in the country; and
- 5 d) The regulation, control, and supervision of the practice of Agroforestry in the
- 6 Philippines.

7

8 **SEC. 4. Definitions.** For purposes of this Act,

9

- 10 a) **“Board”** refers to the Professional Regulatory Board of Agroforestry, hereby
- 11 created as the regulatory body, under the administrative, executive and policy
- 12 supervision of the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), for the practice
- 13 of Agroforestry in the Philippines and tasked with powers, functions and
- 14 responsibilities herein prescribed;
- 15 b) **“Commission”** refers to the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC),
- 16 created under Republic Act No. 8981 or the Professional Regulations
- 17 Commission Modernization Act of 2000;”
- 18 c) **“Agroforester”** refers to any person who has passed the licensure examination
- 19 for the agroforestry professional administered by the Board/Commission, taken
- 20 the oath of an Agroforester, and duly registered and issued with a certification
- 21 of good standing and is allowed under this act to engage in or to perform
- 22 activities, acts or services constituting the professional practice of agroforestry
- 23 including those who hold a position in the government service or teaches
- 24 subjects in schools, colleges or universities, requiring the knowledge of
- 25 Agroforestry;
- 26 d) **“Agroforestry”** refers to the science, arts and practice that deals with the
- 27 production, arrangement and utilization of woody perennials in combination
- 28 with other agricultural crops, animals, aquatic and /or other resources either
- 29 zonal, mixed simultaneously or sequentially grown for the twin purpose of
- 30 conservation and socio-economic productivity; and
- 31 e) **“Agroforestry professional practice”** refers to the activities, acts, services or
- 32 pursuits exclusively performed by PRC registered and licensed professional
- 33 agroforesters, the scope thereof is prescribed and/or specified herein.
- 34

1           **SEC. 5. Scope of Practice.** The practice of Agroforestry shall include, but not be  
2 limited to, the following:

- 3           a) Preparation and certification of Agroforestry systems and interactive diagnosis  
4           and design, feasibility studies, and specifications for the production, harvesting,  
5           processing, utilization and marketing of woody perennials and agricultural  
6           crops and/ or animals for multiple products and services including conservation  
7           and cleaner production practices;
- 8           b) Development of management plans with a step-by-step time-line plans with  
9           recommendations on appropriate species and strategies for the unique site; a  
10          plan for long-term fertility management; for marketing final products including  
11          budget and economic projections; farm and pasture diversification plans of  
12          ranches, fruit growers and farms to diversity products and integrate more trees  
13          into their plantings, with appropriate species and techniques to support existing  
14          crops, reduce expenses and increase the diversity and economic resiliency of  
15          the project. These may include animal fodder, windbreaks, much bank. shade  
16          integrated timber or native trees, and ma other practices;
- 17          c) Planning and implementation of agroforestry nurseries including seed orchards,  
18          tissue-culture and clonal banks operations; soil and water resources  
19          conservation measures' conduct of environmental risk and impact assessments  
20          and geospatial analysis and management of resources; and wood products  
21          manufacturing and marketing;
- 22          d) Provision of related activities or services such as the conduct of agroforestry  
23          experiments, research, extension, development, training or communications; the  
24          teaching of subjects in academic institutions ad for licensure examinations in  
25          conformity with Section 11 of Republic Act No 8981; undertaking, supervision  
26          and/or administration of studies, program, stations, center, community/  
27          provincial/ regional/ national offices of government agencies and institutions  
28          requiring agroforestry professionals; technical or management consultants  
29          needed by or required of local government units, private corporations,  
30          foundations, non-government association and foreign assisted projects; and
- 31          e) All agroforestry concerns, projects, business activities or related services must  
32          be certified by a professional Agroforester before such will be accepted by any  
33          entity for registration, getting business permits or licenses in municipalities, any  
34          financial institutions, legal transactions and the like. Such requirement shall  
35          ensure that agroforestry activities will conform to the observance of the

1 requirements of good agroforestry environmental protection, pollution  
2 prevention, conservation, health risk and cleaner production practices affecting  
3 the natural resources and the ecosystem. Furthermore, the certification of and  
4 by an Agroforester on projects/ businesses is an evidence of careful studies  
5 made on the projects in accordance with Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries  
6 Development Zones (SAFDZs), the land use and zoning ordinances, protection  
7 of watersheds areas, the housing and land use regulations as provided for in  
8 Republic Act No. 8435 and other laws.

9  
10 **ARTICLE II**

11 **PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AGROFORESTRY**

12  
13 ***SEC. 6. The Professional Regulatory Board of Agroforestry and its Composition.***

14 The Professional Regulatory Board of Agroforestry, hereinafter referred to as the “**Board,**”  
15 under the supervision and administrative control of the Professional Regulation  
16 Commission, hereinafter referred to as the “**Commission,**” shall be composed of a  
17 Chairman and four (4) members, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a  
18 list of three (3) recommendees for each position and ranked by the Commission from a list  
19 of five (5) qualified nominees endorsed by the accredited professional organization of  
20 certified agroforesters, within ninety (90) working days after the approval of this Act.

21  
22 The Board shall elect a vice-chairman from among its members for a term of one  
23 (1) year. The Chairman shall preside in all meetings of the Board and in the event of a  
24 vacancy in the office of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall assume the post until such  
25 time as a chairman is appointed.

26  
27 ***SEC. 7. Qualifications of Members of the Professional Regulatory Board.*** A  
28 member of the Board shall, at the time of his / her appointment, possess the following  
29 qualifications:

- 30 a) Must be a natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines;  
31 b) Must have engaged in the practice of Agroforestry for at least ten (10) years;  
32 c) Must be of good moral character and must not have been convicted of a crime  
33 involving moral turpitude; and  
34 d) Must not have any pecuniary interest, for a period of at least one (1) year prior  
35 to his or her appointment, directly or indirectly, in any school, college,

1 university or institution conferring an academic degree necessary for admission  
2 to the practice of agroforestry or where review classes in preparation for the  
3 licensure examination are being offered or conducted, nor shall he / she be a  
4 member of the faculty or administration thereof at the time of his / her  
5 appointment to the Board.  
6

7 **SEC. 8. Term of Office.** The chairman and members of the Board shall hold office  
8 for a term of three (3) years without prejudice for reappointment to another term, but in no  
9 case shall he/she serve continuously for more than six (6) years. At the expiration of the  
10 term of the Chairperson, the most senior of the remaining members of the Board shall  
11 assume and perform the duties and functions and receive the emoluments and entitlements  
12 of the Chairperson. The incumbent members of the Board shall continue to serve their  
13 respective remaining terms until their successors shall have been appointed and have  
14 qualified in accordance with this Act.  
15

16 **SEC 9. Powers and Functions of the Board.** The Board shall exercise the  
17 following powers, functions and responsibilities, in addition to the pertinent general  
18 functions of the Commission under Republic Act 8981:

- 19 a) To create a registry of agroforestry professionals in the country;
- 20 b) To prepare, conduct and administer the agroforestry licensure examinations;
- 21 c) To provide information and other educational materials, promotions and  
22 networking services to facilitate the activities of the Board;
- 23 d) To hear and investigate cases, issue summons and subpoena duces tecum, and  
24 conduct summary proceedings in cases arising from violations of this Act;
- 25 e) To suspend, revoke, reissue, reinstate certificates of registration or licenses for  
26 cause allowed by law;
- 27 f) Subject to the approval of the Commission, to adopt and promulgate rules and  
28 regulations implementing this Act, including its Code of Ethics to effectively  
29 execute the provisions of this Act; and
- 30 g) To exercise such other powers as may be provided by law as well as those  
31 which may be implied from, or which are necessary or incidental in carrying  
32 out the express powers granted to the Board to achieve the objectives of this  
33 Act.  
34





- 1 c. Integrated Pests and Disease Management;
- 2 d. Soil Science and Water Conservation;
- 3 e. Agroforestry Science and Technology system; and
- 4 f. Applied Sociology and Extension.

5  
6 The Board, upon approval of the Commission, may revise or exclude any of the  
7 subjects and their syllabi, and add new ones as the need arises.

8  
9 **SEC. 14. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.*** To qualify as having passed the  
10 licensure examination for agroforesters, a candidate must obtain a general average of seventy  
11 five percent (75%), with no grade lower than sixty-five percent (65%) in any given subject.

12  
13 **SEC.15. *Report of Rating.*** The Board shall submit to the Commission the rating  
14 obtained by each candidate within ten (10) calendar days after the examination, unless  
15 extended for just cause. Upon the release of the results of the examination, the  
16 Commission shall send by mail the rating received by each examinee at his / her given  
17 address using the mailing envelope submitted during the examination.

18  
19 **SEC. 16. *Oath.*** All successful candidates in the examination shall required to take  
20 an oath of profession before any member of the Board or before any government official  
21 authorized of the Commission or any person authorized by law to administer oaths upon  
22 presentation of proof of his/her qualification, prior to entering upon the practice of the  
23 profession.

24  
25 **SEC. 17. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification***  
26 ***Card.*** A certificate of registration shall be issued to examinees who passes the licensure  
27 examination subject to payment of fees prescribed by the Commission. The Certificate of  
28 Registration shall bear the signature of the chairperson of the Commission and the  
29 chairman and members of the Board, stamped with the official seal of the Commission and  
30 of the Board, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to the practice of the  
31 profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. The said certificate shall remain in  
32 full force and effect until withdrawn, suspended or revoked in accordance with this Act

1 A Professional Identification Card bearing the registration number date of issuance,  
2 expiry date, duly signed by the chairperson of the Commission, shall likewise be issued to  
3 every registrant renewable  
4

5 **SEC 18. Roster of Licensed Agroforesters.** A roster showing the names and place  
6 of business of all registered professional agroforesters shall be prepared and updated by the  
7 Board, and copies thereof shall be made available to any party as may deemed necessary.  
8

9 **SEC. 19. Indication of Certificate of Registration, Identification Card and**  
10 **Professional Tax Receipt.** The licensed Agroforester shall be required to indicate his / her  
11 certificate of registration number, the date of issuance, the duration of validity, including  
12 the Professional Tax Receipt number on the documents he / she signs, uses, or issues in  
13 connection with the practice of his / her profession.  
14

15 **SEC. 20. Refusal to Issue Certificate of Registration and Professional**  
16 **Identification Card.** The Board shall not register and issue a certificate of registration and  
17 Professional Identification Card to any successful examinee convicted by the court of  
18 competent jurisdiction of a criminal offence involving moral turpitude or guilty of immoral  
19 and dishonorable conduct to any person or unsound mind. In the event of refusal to issue  
20 certificate for any reason, the Board shall give the applicant a written statement setting  
21 forth the reasons for such action, which statement shall be incorporated in the record of the  
22 Board.  
23

24 **SEC. 21. Suspension and Revocation of Certificate of Registration and**  
25 **Professional Identification Card and Cancellation of Special Permit.** The Board shall  
26 have the power, upon the notice and hearing, to suspend or revoke the practitioner's  
27 certificate of registration and professional identification card or suspend his/her from the  
28 practice of his/her profession or cancel his/her special permit for any of the causes or  
29 ground mentioned under Section 23 of this Act or any of the provisions of this Act, and its  
30 implementing rules and regulations, the certified Public Accountant's Code of Ethics and  
31 the technical and professional standards of practice for certified public accountants.  
32

33 **SEC. 22. Reinstatement, Reissuance and Replacement of Revoked or Lost**  
34 **Certificates.** The Board may, after the expiration of two (2) years from the date of  
35 revocation of a certificate of registration and upon application and for reasons deemed

1 proper and sufficient, reinstate the validity of a revoked certificate of registration and in so  
2 doing, may, in its discretion, exempt the applicant from taking another examination.

3  
4 A new certificate of registration to replace lost, destroyed, or mutilated  
5 certificate/license may be issued, subject to the rules and promulgated by the Board and the  
6 Commission, upon the payment of the required fees.

7  
8 **ARTICLE IV**  
9 **PENAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

10  
11 **SEC. 23. Penal Provisions.** Any person who shall practice the Agroforestry  
12 profession in the Philippines within the meaning of this Act without a certificate of  
13 registration and / or professional license in accordance herewith, or any person presenting  
14 or using as his / her own Certificate of Registration or professional licensure belonging to  
15 another, or any person giving any false or forged evidence to the Commission in order to  
16 secure a professional license, or any person assuming, using or advertising as a registered  
17 professional agroforester without having been conferred such title, or advertising any title  
18 description tending to convey the impression that he or she is a registered professional  
19 Agroforester, shall, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos  
20 (50,000.00) or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding two (2) years or both, at the  
21 discretion of the court.

22  
23 **SEC. 24. Employment of Agroforesters in the Government.** In furtherance of the  
24 national government's program for sustainable agricultural development, there is a need to  
25 adopt mechanisms for the placement and employment of agroforestry graduates in the  
26 government sector.

27  
28 Thus, it is hereby mandated that all municipalities with at least twenty per centum  
29 (20%) of the total upland area of the municipality shall create at least one (1) plantilla  
30 position for Agroforestry Officer at the Municipal Agriculturist Office, all provinces shall  
31 create at least one (1) plantilla position for Agroforestry Specialist at the Office of the  
32 Provincial Agriculturist. The aforesaid agroforestry plantilla positions shall be occupied by  
33 a professional Agroforester as defined in this Act.

34

1           Whenever necessary, national government agencies concerned in agroforestry-  
2 related activities may also create *plantilla* positions for agroforesters as they may deem  
3 appropriate.  
4

5           The Board shall initiate the development of a position classification standards to be  
6 led by the Civil Service Commission in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture,  
7 the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Environment and  
8 Natural Resources, one (1) year after the approval of this Act in accordance with existing  
9 Salary Standardization Laws.  
10

11           **SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within ninety (90) days after the  
12 effectivity of this Act, the Board, subject to the approval of the Commission and in  
13 coordination with accredited national professional organization of licensed agroforesters,  
14 shall adopt and promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions  
15 of this Act.  
16

17           **SEC. 26. *Funding Provision.*** The chairperson of the Professional Regulation  
18 Commission shall immediately include in the Commission's programs the implementation  
19 of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations  
20 Act.  
21

22           **SEC. 27. *Transitory Provision.*** The incumbent chairman and members of the  
23 Board shall continue to serve in their respective positions under the terms for they have  
24 been appointed under Presidential Decree No. 692, without the need of new appointments.  
25

26           All graduates with Bachelors Degree, Major in Agroforestry shall be allowed to  
27 take the Agroforestry Licensure Examination within two (2) years from the effectivity of  
28 this Act under the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Board subject to the  
29 approval by the Commission.  
30

31           **SEC 28. *Foreign Reciprocity.*** Except in the case of persons otherwise exempt  
32 under the provisions of this Act, no agroforester who is a citizen of a foreign country or a  
33 particular state shall be granted any of the rights of privilege under this Act, unless the  
34 country or state of which he is a subject or a citizen permits agroforesters who are Filipino  
35 citizens to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens

1 of such country or state but under the circumstances shall such a set-up be initiated by the  
2 Philippine Government.

3  
4 **SEC. 29. Enforcement.** The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) shall be  
5 the enforcement agency of the Board. As such, the Commission shall implement the  
6 concerned provisions of this act, enforce its Implementing Rules and regulations (IRR) as  
7 adopted by the Board, conduct investigations of complaints including violations of the  
8 Code of Ethics/Conduct of the profession and prosecute when so warranted. If necessary,  
9 the Commission may seek the assistance of other duly constituted authorities in the  
10 enforcement of the law.

11  
12 **SEC 30. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act or an application thereof  
13 to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the other provisions of this Act, and the  
14 application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected  
15 thereby.

16  
17 **SEC. 31. Repealing Clause.** All existing laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts  
18 thereof deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended,  
19 or modified accordingly.

20  
21 **SEC. 32. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
22 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general  
23 circulation, whichever comes first.

24  
25 *Approved,*