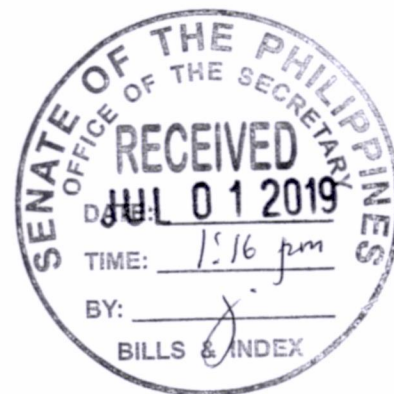


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. 57



Introduced by SENATOR MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

AN ACT
MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURISTS
IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT
INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443 AND 482 (A) OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At present, only provincial governments are mandated to appoint agriculturists in order to ensure effective representation of the agricultural sector in local government planning and coordination. The law permits the appointment of agriculturists by city and municipality governments but the same is not mandatory.


The mandatory appointment of agriculturists at the level of the provincial government reflects the importance vested by the State in the agricultural sector. It likewise reflects recognition that the Philippines remains a largely agricultural country with many citizens dependent on farming, fishing, or husbandry as sources of livelihood.

In light thereof, the optional appointment of agriculturists at the level of smaller local government units, particularly municipalities, should be reviewed. In municipalities where the main industry is agriculture, the appointment of

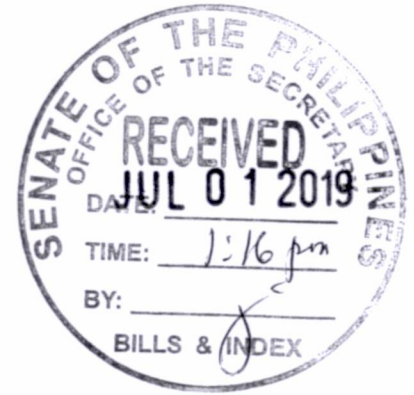
agriculturists to the local government unit should no longer be an option but a necessary prerequisite for local government growth. In such municipalities, the interest and voice of the agricultural sector should be of paramount importance in the determination of local planning and development measures. Hence, a qualified expert in the field should be available to address constituent concerns as well as to aid in government decision- making.

The proposed measure will mandate the appointment of municipal agriculturists in municipalities where agriculture is a significant industry.

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



MANUEL "LITO" LAPID
Senator



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OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

1 Section 1. Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known
2 as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows.

3
4 "Section 443. *Officials of the Municipal Government.* —

5 (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a
6 municipal vice-mayor, *sangguniang bayan* members, a secretary to the
7 *sangguniang bayan*, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a
8 municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning
9 and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a
10 municipal health officer and a municipal civil registrar.

11 (b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal
12 administrator, a municipal legal officer, a municipal agriculturist, a

1 municipal environment and natural resources officer, a municipal social
2 welfare and development officer, a municipal architect, and a
3 municipal information officer: **PROVIDED, THAT INSOFAR AS**
4 **MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT**
5 **INDUSTRY OR WHERE THE MAIN LIVELIHOOD IS**
6 **AGRICULTURAL IN NATURE, THE APPOINTMENT OF A**
7 **MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST SHALL BE MANDATORY."**

8
9 Sec. 2. Section 482(a) of R.A. No. 7160, as amended, is hereby amended to read
10 as follows:

11
12 "Section 482. Qualifications, Powers and Duties.

13 (a) No person shall be appointed agriculturist unless he is a citizen of the
14 Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good
15 moral character, a holder of a college degree in agriculture or any
16 related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil
17 service eligible or its equivalent. He must have practiced his profession in
18 agriculture or acquired experience in a related field for at least five (5) years
19 in the case of the provincial and city agriculturist, and three (3) years in
20 the case of the municipal agriculturist.

21
22 The position of the agriculturist shall be mandatory for the provincial
23 government and optional for the city and municipal governments:
24 **PROVIDED, THAT INSOFAR AS MUNICIPALITIES WHERE**
25 **AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY OR WHERE THE MAIN**
26 **LIVELIHOOD IS AGRICULTURAL IN NATURE, THE APPOINTMENT OF**
27 **A MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST SHALL BE MANDATORY."**

28
29 Sec. 3. *Implementing Agency.* — The Department of the Interior and Local
30 Governance (DILG) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with local

1 government units, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the
2 effective implementation of this Act.

3
4 Sec. 4. *Appropriations Clause.* — The amount necessary for the effective
5 implementation of this Act shall be included in the general appropriations Act of the year
6 following its enactment.

7
8 Sec. 5. *Repealing/Amending Clause.* — Other relevant provisions of R.A. No.
9 7160, insofar as the appointment of agriculturists is concerned, and any law, decree,
10 executive order, and rules and regulations, or portions thereof inconsistent with this Act
11 are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

12
13 Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* — Should any part or provision of this Act be
14 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
15 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

16
17 Sec. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

19 *Approved,*