

SENATE

S. No. 280

19 JUL -8 P2:55

Introduced by SENATOR MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

**AN ACT
TO PROMOTE URBAN AGRICULTURE AND VERTICAL FARMING
IN THE COUNTRY'S METROPOLITAN AREAS TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY
CONCERNS AND REGENERATE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The use of modern methods of farming and animal husbandry, such as urban agriculture and vertical farming, to improve agricultural production is important to address every person's right to adequate food and to protection from hunger.

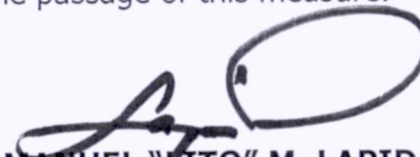
Urban agriculture is the production, processing and marketing of food within a town, city or metropolis, with the application of intensive production methods, such as the use and re-use of urban resources and wastes, to yield a diversity of crops and livestock.

Vertical farming is the construction of skyscrapers or the use of abandoned buildings for the sole purpose of cultivating and farming produce and livestock with the use of various farming methods and technologies such as hydroponics, aeroponics, aquaponics and phytoremediation.

If traditional farming practices continue as presently being practiced, there will not be enough land to sustain the production of food required to meet the demand for food supplies. Take for example the reliance of over 3 billion people around the world on rice as a major food staple. The Philippines struggles to maintain and in fact to increase rice production in order to meet domestic demand as well as to compete in the international market. However, the allocation of land for rice production rivals the need to devote land for housing and industrial development. Urban agriculture and vertical farming is a solution suggested by experts all over the globe.

This measure proposes to institutionalize, strengthen and promote urban agriculture and vertical farming in order to meet food sufficiency targets, create agricultural jobs despite the rapid industrialization of many areas and the development of innovative agricultural techniques apt for the present time.

Hence, the undersigned sponsor urges the passage of this measure.



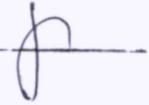
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Urban Agriculture
2 and Vertical Farming Act".

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to protect the right
5 every person to adequate food supply and to promote the achievement of self-
6 sufficiency in food production. Towards this end, key reforms for the development of
7 modern, appropriate, cost-effective and environmentally safe agricultural
8 technologies are hereby encouraged in order to ensure the food security of the
9 country.

10
11 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms
12 shall be understood to refer to the following:

13 (a) "Urban agriculture" shall refer to the practice of cultivating, processing and
14 distributing of food in or around a village, town or city. Urban agriculture also
15 involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture.

1 (b) "Vertical farming" shall refer to the method of farming that is brought to
2 the urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in skyscrapers and
3 other modern buildings.

4
5 *Sec. 4. Comprehensive Research on Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming.*

6 — For purposes of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of
7 Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby
8 mandated to promote the use of urban agriculture and vertical farming in the
9 country's metropolitan areas as art instrument to address food security concerns
10 and regenerate ecosystem functions in the Philippines.

11
12 Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either the
13 national governments or local governments or available land resources in state
14 universities and colleges shall be considered for growing crops, raising livestock
15 and producing food using the said methods.

16
17 The DA and DOST shall support and launch research activities to expand the
18 knowledge and understanding of urban agriculture and vertical farming to be used
19 in food production. A renewed investment into advanced technology research in
20 order to adopt state-of-the-art technologies to promote agricultural production in our
21 high value-added crops and vegetables shall be launched pursuant thereto.

22
23 *Sec. 5. Inclusion of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in Agricultural*
24 *Training.* — Urban agriculture and vertical farming as used in agricultural production
25 shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level
26 students of both public and private academic institutions for studying courses on
27 Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to
28 agriculture.

29
30 The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission
31 on Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations

1 for the implementation of this Section within six (6) months from the date of
2 effectivity of this Act.

3

4 Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
5 of this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations
6 of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology,
7 Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education.

8

9 Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within six (6) months from the
10 date of effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of
11 Science and Technology shall promulgate such implementing rules and regulations
12 necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

13

14 Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act shall be
15 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
16 shall remain in full force and effect.

17

18 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances,
19 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
20 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

21

22 Sec. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
23 its publication in at two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

24

25 *Approved,*