



**SENATE**

**S. No. 1264**

20 JAN 14 P5:55

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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON REVILLA, JR.**

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RECEIVED BY: 

**AN ACT  
PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALL  
METROPOLITAN AREAS NATIONWIDE TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY  
CONCERNS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The First Quarter 2019 Social Weather Survey, conducted from March 28-31, 2019, found that 9.5% or an estimated 2.3 million families experienced involuntary hunger at least once in three months. Hence, to further advance agriculture and food security, this measure aims to promote the practice of urban farming.

Urban farming, as enshrined in this bill, is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around a village, town or city which could also involve animal agriculture, aquaculture and agroforestry, among others. It is one way to promote food security as it will provide citizens easy access to several agricultural products right within their cities and/or communities. In addition, under this measure, urban agriculture and vertical farming shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions offering courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture. All elementary and secondary schools—public or private—, and state colleges and universities shall likewise implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular curriculum its practical application.


It is the hope of this measure that the Philippines benefit from this form of agriculture in the same way that other countries that implement urban farming have.

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

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.**

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**CONCERNS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 "*Integrated Urban*  
2   *Agriculture Act*".
- 3           Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State shall ensure that the fundamental  
4   right of every person to adequate food and to be free from hunger is guaranteed and  
5   protected. As such, the achievement of self-sufficiency and sustainability in food  
6   production is adopted as a primary State policy. Towards this end, the State shall  
7   develop climate resilient communities in the metropolitan areas through the promotion  
8   of modern, appropriate, cost-effective, and environmentally safe agriculture  
9   technologies to ensure food security, promote a healthy citizenry and an improved  
10   quality of life for urban dwellers.
- 11          Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:
- 12           a. Food security refers to a situation wherein food is available and  
13           affordable at all times, and where all people have access to sufficient,  
14           safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life;
- 15           b. Integrated urban agriculture refers to the development paradigm that  
16           encompasses principles, management technologies, and the policies



1 relating to the practice and application of agricultural production of food  
2 and goods in urban areas; and

3 c. Vertical farming refers to the method of farming that is brought to the  
4 urban space by employing concepts of indoor agriculture in skyscrapers  
5 and other modern buildings.

6 Sec. 4. *Scope.* — This Act shall apply to all urban spaces such as idle,  
7 government or private lots or buildings, available land resources in state or private  
8 universities and colleges suitable for growing crops and raising poultry, livestock and  
9 aquaculture.

10 Sec. 5. *National Agriculture and Fisheries Council.* — The National Agriculture  
11 and Fisheries Council (NAF Council) is hereby mandated to monitor and ensure the  
12 proper implementation of this Act. The Council shall be composed of the following  
13 members:

- 14 a. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (Chairperson);
- 15 b. Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management;
- 16 c. Secretary of the Department of Education;
- 17 d. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- 18 e. Secretary of the Department of Health;
- 19 f. Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;
- 20 g. Secretary of the Department of Finance;
- 21 h. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment;
- 22 i. Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways;
- 23 j. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology;
- 24 k. Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- 25 l. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry;
- 26 m. Secretary of the Department of Transportation;
- 27 n. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education;
- 28 o. Chairperson of the National Anti-Poverty Commission;
- 29 p. Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority;
- 30 q. Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development  
31 Authority;
- 32 r. Chairperson of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor;

- s. Representative from the Academe;
- t. Representative from the private sector who has the expertise in urban agriculture and vertical farming; and
- u. Lead Convenor of the Urban Agriculture Practitioners Network of the Philippines.

Cabinet secretaries who are members of the Council may designate their duly authorized and permanent representatives whose ranks shall in no case be lower than assistant secretary.

Sec. 6. *Powers and Functions of the NAF Council.* – The NAF Council shall have the following additional powers and functions:

- a. Develop a unified strategy to link agricultural production to nutrition programs;
- b. Conduct policy studies, program monitoring and comprehensive researches on food production, sustainable food systems and the country's urban agriculture agenda;
- c. Ensure that department resources are used to effectively encourage agricultural production in urban communities;
- d. Provide technical assistance in support of vertical farming, backyard food production and community gardening programs consistent with the goals of poverty reduction, food security and healthy eating habits in urban communities; and
- e. Submit periodic reports and policy recommendations to Congress for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 7. *Inclusion of Urban Agriculture in the Educational System.* – Urban Agriculture shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for elementary, secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions offering courses in Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture. A course curriculum on gardening shall be developed and included in the regular curriculum of elementary and secondary education. Instructional materials shall likewise be developed.

For universities and colleges, Urban Agriculture shall form part of the required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training Program or the



1 Citizens Military Training. A plan for the utilization or maximization of space occupied  
2 by schools shall be formulated specifically for urban agriculture purposes.

3       Sec. 8. *Responsibility of Local Government Units.* – The local government units  
4 (LGUs), in coordination with the NAF Council shall formulate policies on the practice  
5 of Urban Agriculture and on utilizing urban spaces, unused spaces and idle lands,  
6 consistent with its existing policy on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and  
7 zoning ordinances. Provided, that spaces for urban agriculture shall not be prime lots  
8 or areas suitable for investments. The LGUs in cities and urban areas are required to  
9 enact local legislation institutionalizing urban agriculture as a regular component in  
10 the annual appropriations of the LGUs.

11       All homeowners' associations, neighborhood associations, community  
12 associations, people's organizations, and local business establishments shall be  
13 encouraged by the LGU to participate in Urban Agriculture activities.

14       Sec. 9. *Information and Education Campaign.* – In order to raise public  
15 awareness, provide information and engage the public to participate in activities and  
16 projects on Urban Agriculture, the NAF Council shall engage the assistance of the  
17 Philippine Information Agency, through the Public Information Office in each city and  
18 municipality, to undertake a nationwide information campaign.

19       Sec. 10. *Appropriations.* – The funds necessary to carry out the initial  
20 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's budget of the  
21 Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the  
22 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
23 Appropriations Act.

24       Sec. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within six (6) months from the  
25 effectivity of this Act, the NAF Council, in coordination with the concerned agencies,  
26 shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the  
27 provisions of this Act.

28       Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.* – Any provision or part hereof is held invalid, or  
29 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
30 remain valid and subsisting.

31       Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
32 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, or regulations contrary to

1 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or  
2 amended accordingly.

3 Sec. 14. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
4 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

5

6 *Approved,*