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SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 1342

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 147, 257, 280, 587, and 1264)

Prepared by the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Basic Education, Arts and Culture; Finance; and Ways and Means with Senators Cynthia A. Villar, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Grace L. Poe, and Ramon Bong Revilla Jr. as authors thereof

AN ACT

ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS THROUGH INTEGRATING INSTRUCTIONAL GARDENS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULA AND PROMOTING THE USE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Instructional
2 Gardens and Urban Agriculture Act of 2020."

3
4 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to
5 promote food security, food quality, improved health, fight hunger and
6 malnutrition, poverty alleviation, improved quality of environment through
7 greening, reduction in pollution, and creation of savings in household
8 expenditures. Towards this end, key reforms for the development of
9 appropriate, cost-effective, and environmentally safe agricultural practices are

1 hereby encouraged in order to ensure the food security of the country.

2

3 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.***- For purposes of this Act, the following
4 terms shall be defined as follows:

5

- 6 a) *Instructional Gardens* refer to a program of instruction in all elementary
7 and secondary schools, where knowledge and skills, not only in urban
8 agriculture and vertical farming, but in agricultural food production in
9 general, are imparted to school children through relevant theories and
10 actual engagement in agricultural cultivation/production. The theories
11 and actual production shall revolve around the concepts of composting,
12 waste management techniques, healthy and nutritious farm produce,
13 sustainable farm practices, among others.
- 14 b) *Urban Agriculture* refers to the practice of cultivating, processing and
15 distributing of food in or around a village, town or city. Urban agriculture
16 also involves animal husbandry, aquaculture, agro-forestry and
17 horticulture.
- 18 c) *Vertical Farming* refers to the method of farming that is brought to the
19 urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in sky
20 scrapers and other modern buildings.

21

22 **SEC. 4. *Promotion of and Comprehensive Research on Urban***
23 ***Agriculture and Vertical Farming.*** – For purposes of this Act, the
24 respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the
25 Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to
26 promote the use of urban agriculture and vertical farming in the
27 country's urban areas and in other areas in the country where such
28 farming methods are suited, as an intervention mechanism for further
29 addressing food security concerns of the country.

30

31 Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by
32 either the national government or local governments or available land

1 resources in state universities and colleges shall be considered for
2 growing crops, raising livestock, and producing food using the said
3 methods.

4
5 **SEC. 5. *Institutionalization of Instructional Gardens in School***
6 ***Curricula.***- Instructional Gardens program shall be integrated in the
7 academic curricula for elementary and secondary level students of both
8 public and private academic institutions, particularly in subjects in
9 Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics, and/or other related
10 subjects.

11 The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the
12 Department of Agriculture, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
13 regulations for the implementation of this Section within six (6) months
14 from the effectivity of this Act.

15
16 **SEC. 6. *Local Government Units' Participation.*** – Local
17 government units shall formulate a policy on the practice of urban
18 agriculture and vertical farming, utilizing unused spaces and idle lands.
19 This shall require the enactment of local legislation institutionalizing
20 urban agriculture in all levels of the LGU. Local government units shall
21 also grant necessary incentives to their constituents who actively
22 participate in urban farming activities.

23
24 **SEC. 7. *Tax Incentives.*** – All allocations of grants, endowments,
25 donations, or contributions and technical assistance provided by private
26 individuals or corporations to schools for the promotion and
27 implementation of Institutional Gardens in the school curricula, as
28 certified by the Department of Education (DepEd), shall be exempt from
29 taxes and duties.

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31 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** – Within six
32 (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture

1 and the Department of Science and Technology shall promulgate the
2 necessary IRR to implement the provisions of this Act.

3
4 **SEC. 9. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the
5 provisions of this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual
6 general appropriations of the Department of Agriculture, Department of
7 Science and Technology, and the Department of Education.

8
9 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.**- If any provision of this Act is
10 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected
11 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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13 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees,
14 executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or
15 parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby
16 repealed or modified accordingly.

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18 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
19 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general
20 circulation or in the Official Gazette.

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22 *Approved,*

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