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SENATE

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P.S. Res. No. 347

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Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND- SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATED THROUGH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178, AND FURTHER EXTENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 10848 OR THE AGRICULTURAL TARIFFICATION ACT WITH THE END VIEW OF DETERMINING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE LEAD IMPLEMENTING AGENCY AS WELL AS IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE FUND IS UTILIZED FOR THE INTENDED PURPOSES SET BY THE LAW.**

1           **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 1084, or the Agricultural Tariffication Act was  
2 enacted and approved by the President of the Philippines on 23 May 2016 to make  
3 the country's agricultural sector viable, efficient, and globally competitive;

4           **WHEREAS**, the Agricultural Tariffication Act, in order to help the agricultural  
5 sector compete globally, provides necessary support services such as, funding for a  
6 comprehensive and attractive grant-in-aid program for agriculture, forestry,  
7 fisheries, and veterinary medicine education;

8           **WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Agricultural Tariffication Act earmarks ten (10%)  
9 of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund to be used to support a  
10 maximum of ten (10) scholars per campus taking agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and  
11 veterinary medicine education;

12           **WHEREAS**, since 2018 many student beneficiaries have complained that they  
13 have yet to receive the benefit under the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement  
14 Fund, in particular, the subsidies to cover the tuition, stipend, and book allowances;

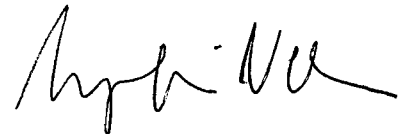
1           **WHEREAS**, since 2018 several letters have been sent to the Department of  
2 Agriculture through former Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and then Undersecretary  
3 Ranibai D. Dilangalen, Usec. for Special Concerns, and again in 2019, to Secretary  
4 William Dar, requesting for update, but to this date, no formal reply have been  
5 received;

6           **WHEREAS**, the complaints from student beneficiaries not receiving the  
7 benefits under the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund are not isolated,  
8 since the complainants come from different state universities, Sultan Kudarat State  
9 University in Sultan Kudarat Province, Western Mindanao State University in  
10 Zamboanga City, and Cagayan State University- Appari Campus, to name a few;

11           **WHEREAS**, the lead implementing agency have been remised in performing  
12 its duties considering that so much time has elapsed in order for them to act on their  
13 obligation to the student beneficiaries in particular, and the agricultural sector in  
14 general;

15           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the  
16 Senate to direct the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of  
17 legislation, on the implementation of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement  
18 Fund- Scholarship Program, with the end view of determining the efficiency of the  
19 lead implementing agency in the implementation as well as in determining whether  
20 the fund was utilized for the intended purposes set by the law.

**Adopted,**



**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**