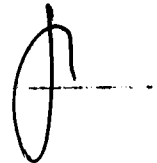


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SENATE
S. No. 2906

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(In Substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1544 and 2535)

Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance with Senators Revilla, Jr., Zubiri, Padilla and Poe as authors thereof

"AN ACT
REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF THE AGRICULTURE PROFESSION IN THE
PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY
BOARD FOR AGRICULTURISTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES,
AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Philippine
Agriculturists Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. The State recognizes the importance of
registered agriculturists in nation-building and development. Hence, it shall develop
and nurture competent, ethical, globally competitive, and well-rounded registered
agriculturists who shall observe the highest standards of excellence and whose
professionalism shall be fostered through the administration of transparent, credible,
and relevant licensure examinations, a system of registration, and continuing

professional development programs and activities.

SEC. 3. Objectives. This Act provides for:

- a) The examination, registration, and licensure of agriculture practitioners;
- b) The supervision, control, and regulation of the practice of the agriculture profession in the Philippines;
- c) The development and upgrading of the Bachelor of Science (BS) Agriculture curriculum;
- d) The development of the professional competence of registered agriculturists through Continuing Professional Development (CPD); and
- e) The integration of the agriculture profession.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act:

- a) *Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO)* refers to a professional organization accredited by the Professional Regulatory Board of Agriculture and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), mandated under this Act to integrate all registered agriculturists into one national organization wherein membership is automatic and mandatory;
- b) *"Agriculture"* refers to the science, art, ethics, management, and entrepreneurship in the production, establishment, processing, distribution, and marketing of crop, livestock, and poultry commodities, along with soil/land, water, and biodiversity management, to ensure food and nutrition security, foster economic development, drive global trade and adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change; and safeguard the equitable use of resources for current and future generations.
- c) *Agriculture-related degrees* refer to the courses that have been authorized and defined by the Board for purposes of qualifying for the agriculturists

1 licensure examination and registration without examination as
2 agriculturists, such as (BS) in Agriculture, BS in Agricultural and Applied
3 Economics, BS in Agribusiness Management, BS in Agricultural
4 Biotechnology, BS in Agricultural Chemistry and other agriculture-related
5 courses that may hereafter be identified or recognized by the CHED and
6 the Professional Regulatory Board of Agriculture;

7 d) *Practice of the agriculture profession* refers to all activities, acts, services,
8 or pursuits performed by registered agriculturists as herein prescribed or
9 specified; and

10 e) *Registered agriculturist* refers to a person who has been issued a
11 Certificate of Registration (COR) and Professional Identification Card (PIC)
12 to practice the agriculture profession.

13 **ARTICLE II**

14 **PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

15 **SEC. 5. Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board**

16 **of Agriculture.** A Professional Regulatory Board of Agriculture, hereinafter referred to
17 as the Board, is hereby created under the administrative supervision and control of the
18 PRC. The Board shall be composed of a chairperson and five (5) members. Each
19 member shall represent one of the six (6) fields of specialization provided in Section 14,
20 Article III of this Act. The President of the Philippines shall appoint the chairperson and
21 members of the Board from the two (2) recommendees for each position submitted by
22 the PRC from a list of three (3) nominees for each position submitted by the AIPO for
23 registered agriculturists. The PRC may determine other sources of nominees, including
24 other professional organizations and the academe, in the event that there is no AIPO
25 or in case of failure or refusal of the AIPO to submit Board nominees.

1 The new Board shall be constituted within six (6) months from the effectivity of
2 this Act.

3 **SEC. 6. Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members of the Board.**

4 At the time of their respective appointments, the members of the Board, including
5 the Chairperson, must be:

- 6 a) A natural-born Filipino citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- 7 b) Of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime
8 involving moral turpitude;
- 9 c) A member in good standing of the AIPO for registered agriculturists;
- 10 d) A holder of a degree in BS in Agriculture, BS in Agricultural and Applied
11 Economics, or BS in Agribusiness Management, preferably with a Master in
12 Agriculture (MAgr), Master of Science (MS), or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in any
13 agriculture discipline obtained from a school, college or university recognized by
14 the government: *Provided*, That each member of the Board shall serve in any of
15 the six (6) recognized fields of specialization in agriculture;
- 16 e) A registered agriculturist with a valid COR and PIC and with at least ten (10)
17 years of relevant experience in agriculture;
- 18 f) Not be a member of the faculty, whether full-time or part-time, of any school,
19 college, or university where a regular or review course in agriculture is taught
20 nor shall have any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in such institution; and
- 21 g) Not be an incumbent officer or trustee of the AIPO for registered agriculturists.

22 **SEC. 7. Powers and Functions of the Professional Regulatory Board of**

23 **Agriculture.** The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- 24 a) Promulgate, administer, and enforce rules and regulations, including the Code of
25 Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Registered Agriculturists, to carry out

- 1 the provisions of this Act;
- 2 b) Supervise and regulate the licensure, registration, and practice of registered
- 3 agriculturists;
- 4 c) Determine and evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for issuance of COR,
- 5 PIC, and special temporary permit (STP);
- 6 d) Issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the COR, PIC, and STP for a cause;
- 7 e) Prepare and modify the questions for the examination and prescribe the Tables
- 8 of Specifications of the subjects for examination and their relative weights;
- 9 f) Administer the Oath of Professional;
- 10 g) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of agriculture, adopt measures for
- 11 the enhancement of the profession and the maintenance of high professional,
- 12 technical, and ethical standards, and conduct inspection of establishments where
- 13 registered agriculturists practice their profession;
- 14 h. Inspect the existing facilities of universities or colleges and evaluate the
- 15 qualifications of deans and faculty members offering the course or program of
- 16 agriculture, to ensure that standards are met based on the criteria set by CHED,
- 17 and skills and competencies of graduates are enhanced;
- 18 i. Investigate violations of this Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR),
- 19 and the Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for registered
- 20 agriculturists;
- 21 j. Issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the
- 22 attendance of respondents or witnesses or the production of documents relative
- 23 to the investigation conducted by the Board and PRC;
- 24 k. Prepare guidelines for the CPD, in coordination with the AIPO, for registered
- 25 agriculturists; and

1 I. Perform other powers, functions, and duties as may be necessary to effectively
2 implement the provisions of this Act.

3 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders, and decisions issued or
4 promulgated by the Board shall be subject to the review and approval of the PRC.
5 However, the Board's decisions, resolutions, or orders not interlocutory in an
6 administrative case shall be subject to review only on appeal.

7 **SEC. 8. Term of Office.** The members of the Board shall hold office for a term
8 of five (5) years after appointment or until their successors shall have been appointed
9 and duly qualified: *Provided*, That members of the first Board to be appointed after the
10 approval of this Act shall hold office for the following terms: the two (2) members, one
11 of whom shall be designated as chairperson, shall serve for five (5) years; two (2)
12 members shall serve for three (3) years; and the other two (2) members shall serve for
13 one (1) year.

14 Each member of the Board may only be reappointed for one full term of five (5)
15 years. A successor to a member whose term has expired shall be appointed for the full
16 term of five (5) years from the date of expiration of the term for which the predecessor
17 was appointed.

18 Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term
19 only. Each member shall take an oath of office before the assumption of duties.

20 **SEC. 9. Compensation and Allowance of the Chairperson and Members**
21 **of the Board.** The chairperson and members of the Board shall receive compensation
22 and allowances comparable to those obtained by the chairpersons and members of the
23 other PRC Professional Regulatory Boards as provided in the annual General
24 Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Suspension and Removal of the Chairperson and Members of the Board. The chairperson or member of the Board may be suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the PRC for neglect of duty, abuse of power, oppression, incompetence, unprofessional, unethical, immoral, or dishonorable conduct, commission, or toleration of irregularities in the conduct of examination or tampering of the grades therein, or for conviction by final judgment of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, after having been allowed to defend oneself in a proper administrative investigation.

SEC. 11. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretariat and Support Services. The Board shall be under the administrative supervision and control of the PRC. The PRC shall keep all records of the Board, including applications for examination, papers and results, minutes of deliberations, and administrative and other investigative cases involving registered agriculturists.

The PRC shall designate the Secretary of the Board and other support services to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. Annual Report. The Board shall submit an annual report to the PRC within thirty (30) days after the close of each calendar year, stating a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and recommending measures to be adopted to upgrade and improve the conditions and practice of the agriculture profession in the Philippines.

ARTICLE III

LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SEC. 13. Professional Licensure Examination. Every applicant seeking to be registered as an agriculturist shall undergo a written professional licensure examination as provided in this Act. The Board shall give examinations for the practice

of the agriculture profession in the Philippines at least once yearly in such places and dates as the PRC may designate.

SEC. 14. Scope of Examination. Applicants for registration as registered agriculturists shall be given a written examination. The scope shall include the six (6) foundation subjects as follows:

- a) Crop Science;
- b) Animal Science;
- c) Soil Science;
- d) Crop Protection;
- e) Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Agri-entrepreneurship; and
- f) Agricultural Extension and Communication.

The Board may re-cluster, re-arrange, modify, add to, or exclude any preceding subjects as the need arises to conform to technological and agricultural modernization.

SEC. 15. Qualifications of Applicants for Professional Licensure

Examination. To be admitted to the Professional Licensure Examination for Agriculturists, an applicant, at the time of filing of application, must be:

- a) A citizen of the Philippines or a foreign country which has a policy on reciprocity for the practice of the agriculture profession;
- b) A holder of a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture or any related course from a school, college, or university recognized by the government: *Provided*, That the applicant has finished a minimum of thirty-six (36) units of agricultural subjects required to take licensure examination for agriculture; and
- c) Of good moral character and has not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

An incumbent holder of any agriculture position in the national, regional, or local

government offices or agencies, including government-owned and controlled corporations, and who has been engaged in agricultural functions acceptable to the Board may qualify to take the professional licensure examination for agriculturist: *Provided*, That they are holders of professional civil service eligibility and must have taken units of agricultural subjects, which shall include the six (6) foundation subjects and the minimum number of units shall be prescribed by the Board.

SEC.16. Ratings in the Professional Licensure Examination. For an examinee to pass, the examinee must obtain an average of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in all subjects, with no rating below fifty percent (50%) in any subject: *Provided That*, in the event that an examinee obtains a general weighted average rating of seventy percent (70%) or higher but obtains a rating below fifty percent (50%) in any of the subjects. In that case, an examinee shall be allowed to take the examination in the subject or subjects where a grade below fifty percent (50%) was obtained only once in the immediately succeeding licensure examination.

An examinee who fails to pass the examination thrice shall be required to undergo a refresher course before the examinee shall be allowed to re-take the examination.

The Board shall prescribe specific guidelines for the implementation of the refresher course requirement.

SEC. 17. Release of the Results of the Professional Licensure Examination. The examination results shall be released within fourteen (14) working days from the last day of the examination unless otherwise extended for a valid reason.

SEC. 18. Registration without Examination. An applicant, upon approval of the application and payment of the prescribed fees, may be registered as an agriculturist without examination if, to the satisfaction of the Board, proves that an

applicant:

a) Is a graduate of a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture or any related baccalaureate programs such as BS in Agricultural and Applied Economics, BS in Agribusiness Management, BS in Agricultural Biotechnology, and BS in Agricultural Chemistry from a school, college, or university established or recognized by the government; and

b) Has served the agriculture industry in any technical capacity from the government or private sector for not less than five (5) years before the effectivity of Republic Act (RA) No. 8435, otherwise known as the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997" and prior to the creation of the Board of Agriculture consistent with the provisions of Section 75 of the same Act. This service shall be certified in the service record if an applicant is a government employee and certified under oath by an authorized official of the firm, company, or corporation if employed in the private sector.

This mode of registration without examination as specified in the preceding subsections a) and b) shall apply to applicants who met the above qualifications prior to the year 2003 when the first licensure examination was conducted by the PRC and can be availed of only until five (5) years upon the effectivity of this Act. All laws and issuances inconsistent with this provision are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 19. Oath of Profession. All persons qualified for registration, with or without examination, shall be required to take an oath of profession before any member of the Board or any government official authorized by the PRC to administer oaths prior to entering into the practice of the agriculture profession.

SEC. 20. Issuance of the Certificate of Registration (COR) and Professional Identification Card (PIC). A COR shall be issued to a successful registrant, with or without examination, subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the PRC. The COR shall bear the signature of the chairperson of the PRC and the chairperson and members of the Board, stamped with the official seals of the PRC and the Board, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the agriculture profession, with all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto. The COR shall remain in full force and effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act.

A PIC bearing the registration number and dates of issuance and expiry duly signed by the chairperson of the PRC shall likewise be issued to every registrant upon payment of the required fees. The PIC shall be renewed subject to compliance with the prescribed requirements for such period as may be determined by the Board and the PRC.

SEC. 21. Refusal to Register. The Board shall not register and issue a COR to a registrant who has been convicted by final judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude or found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after an investigation by the Board or has been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the refusal shall be in writing.

SEC. 22. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card, or Cancellation of Special Temporary Permit. The Board may revoke the COR and PIC of a registered agriculturist or suspend from the practice of the profession or cancel the STP for any of the causes provided in Section 21 hereof or for unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, or violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Registered Agriculturists after due notice and hearing to the party

1 concerned,

2 **SEC. 23. Reinstatement, Reissuance, or Replacement of Certificate of**
3 **Registration and Professional Identification Card.** The Board may reinstate or
4 reissue a revoked COR after two (2) years from the date of revocation, upon petition
5 and for reasons deemed proper and sufficient. Thus, it may exempt the applicant from
6 taking another licensure examination.

7 In case of loss of the COR or PIC, the registrant shall duly prove the
8 circumstances leading to the loss. The duplicate of a lost or revoked COR or PIC shall
9 be issued in accordance with the existing rules and regulations subject to the payment
10 of the necessary and mandated dues.

11 **SEC. 24. Issuance of Special Temporary Permit.** The Board, upon
12 application and payment of the required fees and subject to the approval of the PRC,
13 may issue an STP to a foreign registered agriculturist whose services are urgently
14 needed due to the absence or inadequacy of local registered agriculturists to promote
15 or enhance the practice of the agriculture profession in the Philippines.

16 The Board shall issue the conditions for the grant of the STP, including the
17 designation of a local understudy for every foreign agriculturist to be employed in the
18 Philippines.

19 **SEC. 25. Foreign Reciprocity.** No foreign professional agriculturist shall be
20 admitted to the examination or be given a COR or PIC and be entitled to any of the
21 privileges provided in this Act unless the country of which the foreign professional
22 agriculturist is a citizen and specifically allows Filipino registered agriculturists to practice
23 within its territorial limits on the same basis as the citizens of such foreign country.

24 **ARTICLE IV**

25 **PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURE PROFESSION**

SEC. 26. Scope of Practice of Agriculture. The agriculture profession involves services consisting of crop and livestock and poultry production, processing, and distribution in both urban and rural areas that include the following:

- a) Soil, crop, and animal health management;
- b) Consultation, evaluation, investigation, and management services requiring the application of knowledge in agriculture and its components;
- c) Preparation of plans, specifications, project feasibility studies and estimates, and other management services in the establishment and production of crops, raising of livestock and poultry, landscape horticulture, and marketing agriculture products;
- d) Conduct research projects and studies in the areas of soil resources management, crop improvement, crop production, breeding of livestock and poultry, and animal and plant pest and disease management;
- e) Conduct training and extension work in agricultural crop production, poultry, and livestock raising;
- f) Management and marketing services related to agriculture as a business or industry;
- g) Teaching agriculture subjects in schools, colleges, and universities established or recognized by the government; and
- h) Employment in the private and government sectors where such employment requires the knowledge and expertise of a registered agriculturist.

A person shall be considered in the practice of agriculture if the nature and character of the work or employment requires professional knowledge in agriculture as defined in Section 4(b), Article I of this Act. A person is also deemed to be in the practice of the agriculture profession if that person teaches any agriculture professional subject

1 in a university, college, or school or engages in research in any agriculture-related
2 research or extension.

3 The foregoing list notwithstanding, other activities, which now or hereinafter may
4 require the application of knowledge, skills, training, and expertise in agriculture as may
5 be determined by the Board, shall be deemed to be within the scope of the practice of
6 agriculture and shall be governed by the provisions of this Act.

7 **SEC. 27. Professional Title Appendage.** Only registered agriculturists, as
8 herein defined, may append the title "*Registered Agriculturist (RAgr)*" to their names.

9 **SEC. 28. Prohibition Against the Unauthorized Practice of Agriculture**
10 **Profession.** No person shall practice the agriculture profession in the Philippines or
11 offer oneself as a registered agriculturist, or use the title, word, letter, figure, or any
12 sign tending to convey the impression that one is a registered agriculturist, or advertise
13 or indicate in any manner whatsoever that one is qualified to practice the profession
14 unless the person has complied with all the requirements for registration, with or
15 without examination, and a holder of a valid COR and PIC or a valid STP duly issued
16 by the Board and the PRC.

17 **SEC. 29. Act Not Affecting Other Professionals.** This Act shall not be
18 construed to affect or prevent the practice of any other legally recognized professions.

19 **SEC. 30. Prohibition Against Corporate Practice.** A sole proprietor,
20 consulting firm, association, or organization may engage in the practice of the
21 agriculture profession in the Philippines: *Provided*, That it complies with the following
22 requirements:

- 23 a) That the firm, association, or organization is duly registered with the Department
24 of Trade and Industry, Securities and Exchange Commission, or other
25 appropriate agencies;

- 1 b) That the majority of the officers and board members of the firm, association, or
2 organization are registered agriculturists; and
- 3 c) That registered agriculturists shall carry out the practice of the consulting firm,
4 association, or organization.

5 **SEC. 31. Employment of Agriculturists in the Government.** National

6 government agencies concerned with agriculture activities shall ensure that registered
7 agriculturists fill all existing technical plantilla positions.

8 Registered agriculturists shall occupy all existing technical plantilla positions of
9 provincial, city, and municipal agriculturist offices, including all agriculture technical
10 positions therein. For purposes of this Act, a position is deemed to be technical when
11 the same primarily requires the professional knowledge and skills of a registered
12 agriculturist based on the scope of practice provided in Sec. 26 of this Act. All faculty
13 members of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) teaching agricultural courses shall
14 be occupied by registered agriculturists.

15 The Board shall assist in developing Position Classification Standards for relevant
16 government plantilla positions in collaboration with the Civil Service Commission and
17 other appropriate national and local government agencies.

18 **SEC. 32. Salary.** The minimum base pay of registered Agriculturists working in
19 the national government, including the SUCs, shall not be lower than Salary Grade 13.

20 **In line with the preceding paragraph,** local government units (LGUs) are
21 encouraged to increase the salary grade of their personnel, consistent with the
22 governing principles, guidelines, and provisions of R.A. No. 7160 or the Local
23 Government Code of 1991, subject to their financial capability.

24 **SEC. 33. Employment or Engagement of Agriculturists in the Private**
25 **Sector.** Private agricultural corporations shall employ or engage the services of

1 registered agriculturists. All corporate farms, golf courses, agri-tourism, agri-related
2 corporations or businesses, and other similar institutions or facilities involved in
3 agriculture must employ or engage such number of registered agriculturists based on
4 the scope of practice of the agriculture profession.

5 All faculty members of higher educational institutions teaching agricultural
6 courses shall be registered agriculturists.

7 **SEC. 34. Integration of the Agriculture Profession.** All registered
8 agriculturists shall have one (1) national organization, which the Board and the PRC
9 shall recognize as the only AIPO for registered agriculturists. A registered agriculturist
10 duly registered with the Board and the PRC shall automatically become a member of
11 the AIPO and receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment
12 of the prescribed fees and dues. Membership in the AIPO shall not bar membership in
13 other organizations of registered agriculturists.

14 Upon the approval of this Act, the PRC shall adopt rules and regulations to
15 integrate the agriculture profession under such conditions as it sees fit to raise its
16 standards.

17 **SEC. 35. Code of Ethics and Code of Technical Standards for Agriculture**
18 **Profession.** The Board shall prescribe and promulgate the Code of Ethics and the
19 Code of Technical Standards for registered agriculturists in consultation with the AIPO.

20 **SEC. 36. Continuing Professional Development Program.** All registered
21 agriculturists shall abide by the requirements, rules, and regulations on CPD to be
22 promulgated by the Board and the PRC in coordination with the AIPO of registered
23 agriculturists and the academe. For this purpose, a CPD Council shall be created to
24 implement its program.

25 **SEC. 37. Use of Seal.** Every registered agriculturist shall obtain a seal of such

1 design as the Board shall adopt and approve, which shall be affixed to or impressed
2 upon all documents, records, papers, and instruments prepared by or under the direct
3 supervision of or issued by the registered agriculturist. The registered agriculturist shall
4 use the seal only during the validity of the license.

5 The Board shall issue the pertinent guidelines on the use of seals.

6 **SEC. 38. Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Agriculturists.** All
7 registered agriculturists registered when this Act takes effect shall automatically be
8 recognized as registered agriculturists.

9 **ARTICLE V**

10 **PENAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

11 **SEC. 39. Penal Provision.** Any violation of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics and
12 Code of Technical Standards or other regulatory policies of the Board and the PRC shall
13 be meted the penalty of a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (Php
14 100,000.00) or more than Five hundred thousand pesos (Php 500,000.00), or
15 imprisonment of not less than six (6) months or not more than six (6) years, or both,
16 at the discretion of the court.

17 Officers of government agencies and private establishments, including sole
18 proprietors, consulting firms, associations, and organizations responsible for any such
19 violation shall be held equally liable under this Act and other laws as the circumstances
20 warrant.

21 **SEC. 40. Appropriations.** The Chairperson of the PRC shall immediately
22 include in the PRC's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall
23 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

24 **SEC. 41. Transitory Provisions.** The existing Board of Agriculture shall
25 continue to function in the interim until the new Board has been constituted pursuant

1 to this Act.

2 **SEC. 41. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Board shall issue and
3 promulgate the IRR within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this
4 Act, subject to the approval of the PRC and in consultation with the AIPO. The IRR shall
5 take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a
6 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

7 **SEC. 42. Separability Clause.** If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of
8 this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect,
9 invalidate, or impair any other part of this Act.

10 **SEC. 43. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum
11 orders, and other administrative issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with
12 the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

13 **SEC. 44. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

15 *Approved.*