



S E N A T E

S. No. 2906

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

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE,
GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, AND PROFESSIONAL
REGULATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE WITH
SENATORS REVILLA JR., ZUBIRI, PADILLA, POE, VILLAR
(C.), DELA ROSA, LEGARDA, MARCOS, GATCHALIAN,
VILLANUEVA, EJERCITO, HONTIVEROS, VILLAR (M.),
BINAY, ESTRADA, PIMENTEL III, GO, TOLENTINO, AND
CAYETANO (P.) 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:*

1

ARTICLE I

2

TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES,

3

AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as
2 the “Philippine Agriculturists Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes
4 the importance of registered agriculturists in
5 nation-building and development. Hence, it shall develop
6 and nurture competent, ethical, globally competitive, and
7 well-rounded registered agriculturists who shall observe
8 the highest standards of excellence and whose
9 professionalism shall be fostered through the
10 administration of transparent, credible, and relevant
11 licensure examinations, a system of registration, and
12 continuing professional development programs and
13 activities.

14 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act provides for:

15 (a) The examination, registration, and licensure
16 of agriculture practitioners;

17 (b) The supervision, control, and regulation of
18 the practice of the agriculture profession in the
19 Philippines;

(c) The development and upgrading of the Bachelor of Science (BS) in 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 (Board) 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

1 food and nutrition security, foster economic development,
2 drive global trade, adapt to and mitigate the effects of
3 climate change, and safeguard the equitable use of
4 resources for current and future generations.

5 (c) *Agriculture-related degrees* refer to courses
6 authorized and defined by the Board for purposes of
7 qualifying for the agriculturists licensure examination and
8 registration without examination as agriculturists, such as
9 BS in Agriculture, BS in Agricultural and Applied
10 Economics, BS in Agribusiness Management, BS in
11 Agricultural Biotechnology, BS in Agricultural Chemistry,
12 and other agriculture-related courses that may hereafter
13 be identified or recognized by the Commission on Higher
14 Education (CHED) and the Board;

15 (d) *Practice of the agriculture profession* refers to
16 all activities, acts, services, or pursuits performed by
17 registered agriculturists as herein prescribed or specified;
18 and

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

ARTICLE II

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

SEC. 5. *Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board of Agriculture.* – A Professional Regulatory Board of Agriculture, herein referred to as the Board, is hereby created under the administrative supervision and control of the PRC. The Board shall be composed of a chairperson and five (5) members. Each member shall represent one of the six (6) fields of specialization provided in Section 14, Article III of this Act. The President of the Philippines shall appoint the chairperson and members of the Board from two (2) recommended candidates submitted by the PRC from a list of three (3) nominees for each position submitted by the AIPO for registered agriculturists. In the event that there is no AIPO or in case of failure or refusal of the AIPO to

1 submit Board nominees, the PRC may determine other
2 sources of nominees, including other professional
3 organizations and the academe.

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

6 SEC. 6. *Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members*
7 *of the Board.* – At the time of their respective
8 appointments, the members of the Board, including the
9 Chairperson, must be:

10 (a) A natural-born Filipino citizen and resident of the
11 Philippines;

12 (b) Of good moral character, not convicted of any crime
13 involving moral turpitude;

14 (c) A member in good standing of the AIPO for
15 registered agriculturists;

16 (d) A holder of a degree in BS in Agriculture, BS in
17 Agricultural and Applied Economics, or BS in Agribusiness
18 Management, preferably with a Master in Agriculture
19 (MAgr), Master of Science (MS), or Doctor of Philosophy

(PhD) in any agriculture discipline obtained from a school, college, or university recognized by the government:

Provided, That each member of the Board shall serve in any of the six (6) recognized fields of specialization in agriculture;

(e) A registered agriculturist with a valid COR and PIC and with at least ten (10) years of relevant experience in agriculture;

(f) Not a faculty member, whether full- or part-time, of any school, college, or university where a regular or review course in agriculture is taught, nor have any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in such institutions; and

(g) Not an incumbent officer or trustee of the AIPO for registered agriculturists.

SEC. 7. *Powers and Functions of the Professional Regulatory Board of Agriculture.* – The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

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

1 out the provisions of this Act;

2 (b) Supervise and regulate the licensure, registration,
3 and practice of registered agriculturists;

4 (c) Determine and evaluate the qualifications of the
5 applicants for issuance of COR, PIC, and special temporary
6 permit (STP);

7 (d) Issue, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the COR, PIC,
8 and STP for cause;

9 (e) Prepare and modify the questions for the
10 examination and prescribe the Tables of Specifications of
11 the subjects for examination and their relative weights;

12 (f) Administer the Oath of Professional;

13 (g) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of
14 agriculture; adopt measures for the enhancement of the
15 profession and the maintenance of high professional,
16 technical, and ethical standards; and conduct inspection of
17 establishments where registered agriculturists practice
18 their profession;

19 (h) Inspect the existing facilities of universities or
20 colleges and evaluate the qualifications of deans and

1 faculty members offering the course or program of
2 agriculture, to ensure that standards are met based on
3 CHED criteria, and that skills and competencies of
4 graduates are enhanced;

5 (i) Investigate violations of this Act, its implementing
6 rules and regulations (IRR), and the Code of Ethics and
7 Code of Technical Standards for registered agriculturists;

8 (j) Issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena*
9 *duces tecum* to secure the attendance of respondents or
10 witnesses or the production of documents relative to the
11 investigation conducted by the Board and PRC;

12 (k) Prepare guidelines for the CPD of registered
13 agriculturists, in coordination with the AIPO; and

14 (l) Perform other powers, functions, and duties
15 necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this
16 Act.

17 The policies, resolutions, rules and regulations, orders,
18 and decisions issued or promulgated by the Board shall be
19 subject to the review and approval of the PRC. However,
20 the Board's decisions, resolutions, or non-interlocutory

orders in an administrative case shall be subject to review only on appeal.

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

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

1 Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the
2 unexpired portion of the term. Each member shall take an
3 oath of office before assumption of duties.

4 SEC. 9. *Compensation and Allowance of the*
5 *Chairperson and Members of the Board.* – The chairperson
6 and members of the Board shall receive compensation and
7 allowances comparable to those received by the
8 chairpersons and members of the other PRC Professional
9 Regulatory Boards as provided in the annual General
10 Appropriations Act.

11 SEC. 10. *Suspension and Removal of the Chairperson*
12 *and Members of the Board.* – Upon recommendation of the
13 PRC, the chairperson or member of the Board may be
14 suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines
15 upon recommendation of the PRC for neglect of duty, abuse
16 of power, oppression, incompetence, unprofessional,
17 unethical, immoral, or dishonorable conduct, commission
18 or tolerance of irregularities in the conduct of examination
19 or tampering of the grades therein, or for conviction by

1 final judgment of any criminal offense involving moral
2 turpitude, after a proper hearing in an administrative
3 investigation.

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

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

14 SEC. 12. *Annual Report.* – The Board shall submit an
15 annual report to the PRC within thirty (30) days after each
16 calendar year, stating a detailed account of its proceedings
17 and accomplishments during the year and recommending
18 measures to be adopted to upgrade and improve the

1 conditions and practice of the agriculture profession in the
2 Philippines.

3 ARTICLE III

4 LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

5 SEC. 13. *Professional Licensure Examination.* –

6 Every applicant seeking to be registered as an agriculturist
7 shall undergo a written professional licensure examination
8 as provided in this Act. The Board shall give examinations
9 for the practice of the agriculture profession in the
10 Philippines at least once a year in such places and dates as
11 the PRC may designate.

12 SEC. 14. *Scope of Examination.* – Applicants for

13 registration as registered agriculturists shall be given a
14 written examination. The scope shall include the six (6)
15 foundation subjects as follows:

16 (a) Crop Science;

17 (b) Animal Science;

18 (c) Soil Science;

19 (d) Crop Protection;

(e) Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Agri-
entrepreneurship; and

(f) Agricultural Extension and Communication.

The Board may re-cluster, rearrange, 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 AN 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 agriculture-related degree from a school, college, or
university recognized by the government: *Provided, That*
the applicant has completed coursework in agricultural
subjects, including the six (6) foundation subjects. The

1 minimum number of units shall be prescribed by the Board
2 as a prerequisite for eligibility for the agriculture licensure
3 examination; and

4 (c) Of good moral character, not convicted of any crime
5 involving moral turpitude.

6 An incumbent holder of any agriculture position in
7 the national, regional, or local government offices or
8 agencies, including government-owned and -controlled
9 corporations, and who has been engaged in agricultural
10 functions acceptable to the Board may qualify to take the
11 professional licensure examination for agriculturists:
12 *Provided*, That the same is a holder of professional civil
13 service eligibility and has taken units of agricultural
14 subjects, which shall include the six (6) foundation subjects
15 and the minimum number of units prescribed by the
16 Board.

17 SEC. 16. *Ratings in the Professional Licensure*
18 *Examination.* – The examinee must obtain an average of at
19 least seventy-five percent (75%) in all subjects, with no

1 rating below fifty percent (50%) in any subject: *Provided*,
2 That in the event an examinee obtains a general weighted
3 average rating of seventy-five percent (75%) or higher but
4 obtains a rating below fifty percent (50%) in any of the
5 subjects, an examinee shall be allowed to retake the
6 examination in the subject or subjects where a rating
7 below fifty percent (50%) was obtained.

8 An examinee who fails to pass the examination thrice
9 shall be required to undergo a refresher course before
10 being allowed to retake the examination.

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

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

18 SEC. 18. *Registration without Examination.* – Upon
19 approval of the application and payment of the prescribed

1 fees, an applicant may be registered as an agriculturist
2 without examination if it is proven to the satisfaction of
3 the Board that the applicant:

4 (a) Is a graduate of a Bachelor's Degree in
5 Agriculture or any agriculture-related degree or related
6 baccalaureate program from a school, college, or university
7 established or recognized by the government; and

8 (b) Has served the agriculture industry in any
9 technical capacity in the government or private sector for
10 not less than five (5) years before the effectivity of
11 Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as the
12 "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997",
13 prior to the start of the Agriculturists Licensure
14 Examination in 2003 pursuant to PRC Board of
15 Agriculture Resolution No. 2, series of 2003, and prior to
16 the creation of the Board of Agriculture, consistent with
17 the provisions of Section 75 of the same Act. This service
18 shall be certified in the service record of an applicant who
19 is a government employee and certified under oath by an
20 authorized official of the firm, company, or corporation of

1 an employee in the private sector; or

2 (c) Is a holder of a regular doctoral degree in
3 agriculture on any of the six (6) fields of specialization
4 specified under Section 14 of this Act, from a reputable
5 university: *Provided*, That such individual submits
6 required documents on educational attainment and
7 evidence of active practice of agriculture. The Board may
8 require presentation of the doctoral thesis and other
9 evidence of achievement in agriculture.

10 Registration without examination under this section
11 may be availed within five (5) years upon the effectivity of
12 this Act. All laws and issuances inconsistent with this
13 provision are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

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

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

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

9 SEC. 22. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of*
10 *Registration, Professional Identification Card, or*
11 *Cancellation of Special Temporary Permit.* – The Board
12 may, after due notice and hearing, revoke the COR and
13 PIC of a registered agriculturist, suspend the same from
14 the practice of the profession, or cancel the STP for any of
15 the causes provided in Section 21 hereof or for
16 unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, or
17 violation of any of the provisions of this Act, its IRR, Code
18 of Ethics, and Code of Technical Standards for Registered
19 Agriculturists.

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

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

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

1 The Board shall issue the conditions for the grant of
2 the STP, including the designation of a local understudy
3 for every foreign agriculturist to be employed in the
4 Philippines.

5 SEC. 25. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign professional
6 agriculturist shall be admitted to the examination, or given
7 a COR or PIC and entitled to any of the privileges provided
8 in this Act, unless the country of which the foreign
9 professional agriculturist is a citizen specifically allows
10 Filipino registered agriculturists to practice within its
11 territorial limits on the same basis as its citizens.

12 ARTICLE IV

13 PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURE PROFESSION

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

19 (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 of agriculture products;

(d) 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) 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

1 sectors where such employment requires the knowledge
2 and expertise of a registered agriculturist.

3 A person shall be considered in the practice of
4 agriculture if the nature and character of the work or
5 employment requires professional knowledge in
6 agriculture as defined in Section 4(b), Article I of this Act.

7 A person is also deemed to be in the practice of the
8 agriculture profession if that person teaches any
9 agriculture professional subject in a university, college, or
10 school, or engages in research in any agriculture-related
11 research or extension.

12 The foregoing list notwithstanding, other activities,
13 which now or hereafter may require the application of
14 knowledge, skills, training, and expertise in agriculture as
15 may be determined by the Board, shall be deemed to be
16 within the scope of the practice of agriculture and governed
17 by the provisions of this Act.

1 SEC. 27. *Professional Title Appendage.* –

2 Only registered agriculturists, as herein defined, may append
3 the title “Registered Agriculturist (RAgr)” to their names.

4 SEC. 28. *Prohibition Against the Unauthorized*

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

15 SEC. 29. *Act Not Affecting Other Professionals.* –

16 This Act shall not be construed to affect or prevent the
17 practice of any other legally recognized profession.

18 SEC. 30. *Prohibition Against Corporate Practice.* –

19 A sole proprietor, consulting firm, association, or

organization may engage in the practice of the agriculture profession in the Philippines: *Provided*, That it complies with the following requirements:

(a) The firm, association, or organization is duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry, Securities and Exchange Commission, or other appropriate agencies;

(b) The majority of the officers and board members of the firm, association, or organization are registered agriculturists; and

(c) Registered agriculturists shall carry out the practice of the consulting firm, association, or organization.

SEC. 31. *Employment of Agriculturists in the Government.* – National government agencies concerned with agriculture activities shall ensure that registered agriculturists fill all existing technical plantilla positions.

Registered agriculturists shall occupy all existing technical plantilla positions of provincial, city, and municipal agriculturist offices, including all agriculture

1 technical positions therein. For purposes of this Act, a
2 position is deemed to be technical when it primarily
3 requires the professional knowledge and skills of a
4 registered agriculturist based on the scope of practice
5 provided in Section 26 of this Act. All faculty members of
6 state universities and colleges (SUCs) teaching
7 agricultural courses shall be registered agriculturists.

8 The Board shall assist in developing Position
9 Classification Standards for relevant government plantilla
10 positions in collaboration with the Civil Service
11 Commission and other appropriate national and local
12 government agencies.

13 SEC. 32. *Salary.* – The minimum base pay of
14 registered agriculturists working in the national
15 government, including the SUCs, shall not be lower than
16 Salary Grade 13.

17 In line with this, local government units (LGUs) are
18 encouraged to upgrade the salary grade of their personnel,
19 consistent with the governing principles, guidelines, and

provisions of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, subject to their financial capability.

SEC. 33. *Employment or Engagement of Agriculturists in the Private Sector.* – Private agricultural corporations shall employ or engage the services of registered agriculturists. All corporate farms, golf courses, agri-tourism sites, agri-related corporations or businesses, and other similar institutions or facilities involved in agriculture must employ or engage such number of registered agriculturists based on the scope of practice of the agriculture profession.

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

SEC. 34. *Integration of the Agriculture Profession.* – All registered agriculturists shall have one (1) national organization, which the Board and the PRC shall recognize as the only AIPO for registered agriculturists. A registered

1 agriculturist duly registered with the Board and the PRC
2 shall automatically become a member of the AIPO and
3 receive all appurtenant benefits and privileges upon
4 payment of the prescribed fees and dues. Membership in
5 the AIPO shall not bar membership in other organizations
6 of registered agriculturists.

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

10 SEC. 35. *Code of Ethics and Code of Technical*
11 *Standards for Agriculture Profession.* – The Board shall
12 prescribe and promulgate the Code of Ethics and the Code
13 of Technical Standards for registered agriculturists in
14 consultation with the AIPO.

15 SEC. 36. *Continuing Professional Development*
16 *Program.* – All registered agriculturists shall abide by the
17 requirements, rules, and regulations on CPD to be
18 promulgated by the Board and the PRC in coordination
19 with the AIPO of registered agriculturists and the

1 academe. For this purpose, a CPD Council shall be created
2 to implement its program.

3 SEC. 37. *Use of Seal.* – Every registered agriculturist
4 shall obtain a seal of such design as the Board shall adopt
5 and approve, which shall be affixed to or impressed upon
6 all documents, records, papers, and instruments prepared
7 by or under the direct supervision of or issued by the
8 registered agriculturist. The registered agriculturist shall
9 use the seal only during the validity of the license.

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

12 SEC. 38. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of*
13 *Agriculturists.* – All agriculturists registered when this Act
14 takes effect shall automatically be recognized as registered
15 agriculturists.

16 ARTICLE V

17 PENAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

18 SEC. 39. *Penal Provision.* – Any violation of this Act, its
19 IRR, Code of Ethics, Code of Technical Standards, or other

1 regulatory policies of the Board and the PRC shall be meted the
2 penalty of a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos
3 (P100,000.00) nor more than Five hundred thousand pesos
4 (P500,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months
5 nor more than six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

6 Officers of government agencies and private
7 establishments, including sole proprietors, consulting
8 firms, associations, and organizations responsible for any
9 such violation shall be held equally liable under this Act
10 and other laws as the circumstances warrant.

11 SEC. 40. *Appropriations.* – The Chairperson of the
12 PRC shall immediately include in the PRC's programs the
13 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
14 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

15 SEC. 41. *Transitory Provisions.* – The existing Board
16 of Agriculture shall continue to function in the interim
17 until the new Board has been constituted pursuant to this
18 Act.

1 SEC. 42. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The
2 Board shall issue and promulgate the IRR within
3 one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this
4 Act, subject to the approval of the PRC and in consultation
5 with the AIPO. The IRR shall take effect after fifteen (15)
6 days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or a
7 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

8 SEC. 43. *Separability Clause.* – If any clause,
9 sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act is declared
10 unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect,
11 invalidate, or impair any other part of this Act.

12 SEC. 44. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees,
13 executive orders, memorandum orders, and other
14 administrative issuances or parts thereof that are
15 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
16 modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

17 SEC. 45. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
18 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a
19 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,