

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



74 JAN 28 P5:06

SENATE

S.B. No. 2093

RECEIVED BY. *J.*

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At present, only provincial governments are mandated to appoint agriculturists in order to ensure effective representation of the agricultural sector in local government planning and coordination. The law permits the appointment of agriculturists by city and municipality governments but does not require the same.

The mandatory appointment of agriculturists at the level of the provincial government reflects the importance vested by the State in the agricultural sector. It likewise reflects recognition that the Philippines remains a largely agricultural country with many citizens dependent on farming, fishing, or husbandry as sources of livelihood.

In light thereof, the optional appointment of agriculturists at the level of smaller local government units, particularly municipalities, should be reviewed. In municipalities where the main industry is agriculture, the appointment of agriculturists to the local government unit should no longer be an option but a necessary prerequisite for local government growth. In such municipalities the interest and voice of the agricultural sector should be of paramount importance in the determination of local planning and development measures. Hence, a qualified expert in the field should be available to address constituent concerns as well as to aid in government decision-making.

The proposed measure will mandate the appointment of municipal agriculturists in municipalities where agriculture is a significant industry.

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



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator MLR

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURISTS IN
MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443 AND 482(A)
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise
2 known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 **"Section 443. Officials of the Municipal Government. -**

5
6 (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a
7 municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the
8 sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a
9 municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning
10 and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a
11 municipal health officer and a municipal civil registrar.

12
13 (b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal
14 administrator, a municipal legal officer, a municipal agriculturist, a
15 municipal environment and natural resources officer, a municipal social
16 welfare and development officer, a municipal architect, and a municipal
17 information officer: **PROVIDED, THAT INsofar AS**
18 **MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT**
19 **INDUSTRY OR WHERE THE MAIN LIVELIHOOD IS**
20 **AGRICULTURAL IN NATURE, THE APPOINTMENT OF A**
21 **MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST SHALL BE MANDATORY."**

22
23
24 SEC. 2. Section 482(a) of R.A. No. 7160, as amended, is hereby amended to
25 read as follows:

26 **"Section 482. Qualifications, Powers and Duties.**

1 (a) No person shall be appointed agriculturist unless he is a citizen
2 of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of
3 good moral character, a holder of a college degree in agriculture or any
4 related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade
5 civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have practiced his
6 profession in agriculture or acquired experience in a related field for at
7 least five (5) years in the case of the provincial and city agriculturist, and
8 three (3) years in the case of the municipal agriculturist.
9

10 The position of the agriculturist shall be mandatory for the
11 provincial government and optional for the city and municipal
12 governments: **PROVIDED, THAT INsofar AS MUNICIPALITIES**
13 **WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY OR WHERE**
14 **THE MAIN LIVELIHOOD IS AGRICULTURAL IN NATURE, THE**
15 **APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST SHALL BE**
16 **MANDATORY."**
17

18 **SEC. 3. *Implementing Agency.*** - The Department of Interior and Local
19 Governance (DILG) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with local
20 government units, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective
21 implementation of this Act.
22

23 **SEC. 4. *Appropriations Clause.*** - The amount necessary for the effective
24 implementation of this Act shall be included in the general appropriations Act of the
25 year following its enactment.
26

27 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** - Other relevant provisions of the R.A. No. 7160,
28 insofar as the appointment of agriculturists is concerned, and any law, decree, executive
29 order, and rules and regulations, or portions thereof not consistent with this Act are
30 hereby amended accordingly.
31

32 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - Should any part or provision of this Act be
33 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
34 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
35

36 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
37 its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,