

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 283

31 MAY 2017

Submitted by the Committee on Natural Resources on _____

Re: House Bill No. 5799

Recommending its approval, in substitution of House Bill No. 854.

Sponsors: Representatives Arnel U. Ty and Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred House Bill No. 854, introduced by Representative Villarica, entitled:

AN ACT

REVERTING FISH PONDS TO FOREST LANDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED OR ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 5799, entitled:

AN ACT

REVERTING FISH PONDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED OR ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS TO FOREST LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

be approved, in substitution of House Bill No. 854, with Representatives Villarica and Ty as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


HON. ARNEL U. TY
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
Quezon City

House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department

FACT SHEET
5799
House Bill No. 854

AN ACT REVERTING FISH PONDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED OR ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS TO FOREST LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**
Committee Chairperson: **REPRESENTATIVE ARNEL U. TY**

OBJECTIVE:

- To shorten the period within which unutilized or abandoned fishponds can be reverted to forestlands

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Provides that fishponds that have been unutilized or abandoned for a period of three years shall be reverted to the category of forest land.
- Shortens the period within which unutilized or abandoned fishponds can be reverted to the category of forestlands fishponds
- Mandates the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to set joint guidelines in the determination and rehabilitation and reforestation of abandoned, undeveloped or underutilized fishponds covered by Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs)

RELATED LAW:

- P.D. 705 – Revised Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5799
(in substitution of HB No. 854)

Introduced by Representatives Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica and Arnel U. Ty

AN ACT
REVERTING FISH PONDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED OR
ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS TO FOREST LANDS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 705 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY
REFORM CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 43 of Presidential Decree No. 705, otherwise known as "The Revised
2 Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 SECTION 43. Swamplands and mangrove forests. xxx...

4 Mangrove and other swamps released to the Bureau of
5 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for fishpond purposes which are
6 not utilized, or which have been abandoned for [five (5)] **THREE**
7 **(3)** years from the date of such release shall revert to the category
8 of forest land **AND SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY**
9 **REHABILITATED AND REFORESTED.**

10 **THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND**
11 **THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND**
12 **NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL JOINTLY SET JOINT**
13 **GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING ABANDONED,**
14 **UNDEVELOPED OR UNDERUTILIZED FISHPONDS**
15 **COVERED BY FISHPOND LEASE AGREEMENTS**

1 **(FLAs) WHICH SHALL BE REVERTED INTO**
2 **FORESTLAND AND REHABILITATED.**

3 **SEC. 2.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect
4 the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

5 **SEC. 3.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts
6 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

7 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
8 Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9 Approved,