

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9844



Introduced by Representative Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga

**“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BY INSTITUTIONALIZING A
TEN PERCENT (10%) BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FROM
THEIR INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES,
AND SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 287 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A healthy and dynamic agricultural and fisheries sector is an important foundation of economic development. The devolution of responsibilities from the national to local government units is one of the key factors for improving the effectivity and efficiency of services to the public and carrying out a bottom-up approach to agricultural development.

The 1987 Constitution aims to move towards decentralization of government and local autonomy in terms of administrative and fiscal aspects. The local government units shall have the power to allocate their resources in accordance with their own priorities. We need to ensure that agriculture will not be left behind especially in areas where agriculture is not a priority. Agriculture contributes to the overall progress and development of the country.

Food is life and we need to secure the food requirements of our people. Food security will greatly depend on the agriculture and fishery programs of the local government units.

In view of the significant contribution of the agriculture sector in the progress and development of the country, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. Enverga", written in a cursive style.

WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA
Representative, 1st District of Quezon

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

Sec. 1. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to promote, localize, and accelerate the development and modernization of Philippine agriculture through improved productivity and competitiveness to achieve our goal of a food secure nation and contribute in the overall development and progress of the country.

The State, through the active participation of the local government units, shall endeavor to develop and empower the agriculture sector to uplift the socio-economic conditions of farmers and farming communities nationwide; and, come up with programs to address climate change, food safety, food security, poverty alleviation, promoting social equity and sustainable development especially in the countryside.

Towards this end, there shall be a comprehensive program on agriculture and fisheries development in all local government units which shall form part of the regular services it shall deliver to the people within their respective territorial jurisdictions.

Sec. 2. Appropriations for Agriculture Programs, Projects and Activities. Section 287 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 287. Local Development Projects. Each local government unit shall appropriate in its annual budget no less than twenty percent (20%) of its annual internal revenue allotment for development projects. Copies of the development plans of local government units shall be furnished the Department of the Interior and Local Government. **OF THIS AMOUNT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL ALLOCATE TEN PERCENT (10%) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES IN AGRICULTURE AND/OR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS THE PROMOTION OF FOOD SECURITY.**”

Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and other concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 4. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 5. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the country.

Approved.