

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 367

Introduced by Representative VICTOR A. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE


The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was introduced three decades ago with the approval of Republic Act 6657, also known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988. The law aims to improve farming efficiency, reduce poverty, and achieve equity. It lowered the ceiling on land ownership of agriculture lands from seven hectares under Presidential Decree 27 to five hectares with additional three hectares for each heir. The lower retention limits on ownership of agricultural lands effectively increased the scope of private farms or landholdings that the state could acquire for distribution among the landless.

Of a total area of 5.4 million hectares that fell under CARP's scope, the government has distributed 4.8 million hectares to around 2.8 million beneficiaries as of December 2017, according to a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. However, landowners have allegedly filed petitions for exemptions or installed fraudulent beneficiaries on lands that are meant for the peasant farmers.

To address this, this bill aims to remove the retention limit and mandate owners of land covered by the program to give up their entire property so it can be distributed to the farmers. Under this measure, only small landowners will be allowed to keep five hectares to be personally cultivated by the landowner. They shall be given the option to sell their lands in excess of five hectares to the State.

This bill seeks to truly attain the redistributive land reform that was enacted more than 30 years ago, and bring about social justice that is long overdue to Filipino farmers.

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


VICTOR A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS THAT CAN BE
SUBJECT TO LAND REDISTRIBUTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1988”, AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9700

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, is hereby amended to
2 read as follows:

3

4 “Section 6. Retention Limits. — Except as otherwise provided in this Act,
5 no person may own or retain, directly or indirectly, any public or private
6 agricultural land, the size of which shall vary according to factors
7 governing a viable family-size farm, such as commodity produced, terrain,
8 infrastructure, and soil fertility as determined by the Presidential Agrarian
9 Reform Council (PARC) created hereunder[.].

10

11 IN ALL OTHER LANDS NOT EXCEEDING FIFTEEN (15)
12 HECTARES, INCLUDING THE LANDS OF RETIREES,
13 PROFESSIONALS, AND LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME
14 EMPLOYEES, THE LANDOWNERS SHALL BE GIVEN THE
15 OPTION TO SELL THEIR LANDS IN EXCESS OF FIVE HECTARES
16 TO THE STATE: PROVIDED, THAT THE REMAINING FIVE (5)
17 HECTARES SHALL BE PERSONALLY CULTIVATED BY THE
18 LANDOWNER.

19

20 LANDS OF MIDDLE-INCOME AND HIGH-INCOME FARMERS
21 SHALL NOT BE EXPROPRIATED. IN THE CASE OF LANDS
22 BELOW FIVE (5) HECTARES WHOSE OWNERS DO NOT

1 PERSONALLY TILL THE LAND, THE LANDOWNER SHALL BE
2 ENCOURAGED TO SELL THE LAND.”
3

4 **SECTION 2.** Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
5 proclamations and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the
6 provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.
7

8 **SECTION 3.**Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this
9 Act or any part thereof, or the application of such section, provision or portion is declared
10 invalid or unconstitutional, all the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain
11 valid.
12

13 **SECTION 4.** Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
15 circulation.
16

17 Approved.
18