

**Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City**

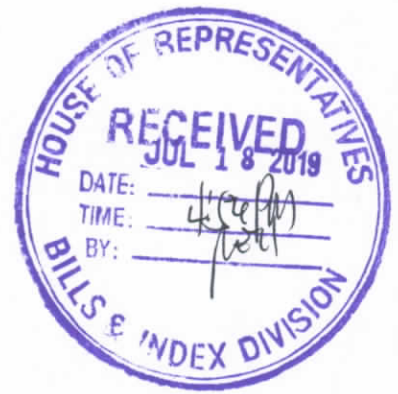
**Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session**

**House Bill No. 2405**

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**Introduced by Representatives  
Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

There is nothing to behold when a person looks at onions. It is a simple vegetable crop that is easy to overlook and disregard. Realistically, though, it can be a source of development and productivity for our country. Better yet, it can even be a source of pride for the nation.

A study of the farming industries in the globe will reveal that establishing an onion industry can substantially benefit a country's economy. Australia, for instance, is an established onion producer that caters to both its domestic and export markets. Other countries with farming industries have relatively delved into onion production as well.

The Philippines, with all its farming background and setting can easily turn into a respectable onion producing country. However, a comprehensive study from the initial to the final stages of onion production has yet to be put forth, if any, or altered to attune to modern conditions in case an underperforming onion industry in the country beckons.

The bill proposing to create the Philippine Onion Research Institute is the vehicle which will catapult the country's onion industry into a more progressive entity. An industry capable of serving the domestic and international markets, bringing with it much-needed revenue, thus, considerably affecting the lives of Filipinos in the process.


The bill also aspires to establish and operate one central experiment station which will undertake extensive research in onion culture and production such as, but not limited to, feasibility studies on merchandising onion farms, for example. The institute shall be placed under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the purpose of employing the expertise of said agency and to assure the successful implementation of the same. The DA as an administrative agency of the government is comprised by experts in a specific field of specialization under its jurisdiction. Hence, the

decision to place the aforesaid establishment under the supervision of the said agency certainly augurs well for the proposed bill.

The bill, in detail, intends to conduct all kinds of research work for the onion industry; aiming to discover and introduce processes that will improve productivity with such efficiency in all aspects of production. Moreover, the bill aims to establish and maintain a sustainable and balanced relation between production and consumption of onions in the domestic and foreign markets in the process. All to be done at a projected reduction of cost completing the metamorphosis of the country's onion industry.

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

  
**REP. ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija

  
**REP. HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat

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**AN ACT  
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE ONION RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

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

**Chapter I**

**ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVES**

**SECTION 1. *Name, Duration and Domicile.*** – There is hereby created the “Philippine Onion Research Institute”, hereinafter called “PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE”, which shall be organized within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act and shall have its main office in an appropriate and suitable place in the Province of Nueva Ecija. This Corporation shall be under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture.

**SECTION 2. *Purposes and Objectives.*** – The PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a. To conduct research work for the onion industry in all its phases, for the purpose of introducing such practices or processes that will reduce the cost of production, increase and improve productivity and achieve greater efficiency in the industry;
- b. To improve existing methods of raising onions and onion production;
- c. To ensure a permanent, sufficient and balanced production of onions for local consumption and exportation;
- d. To establish and maintain a suitable and balanced relation between production and consumption of onions, and such marketing conditions therefore, as will ensure stabilized prices at



1 a level sufficient to cover the cost of production plus a reasonable  
2 profit; and

- 3 e. To promote the effective merchandizing of onions in the domestic  
4 and foreign markets so that those engaged in the onion industry  
5 will be placed on a more economic stability and security.

## 6 Chapter II

### 7 POWERS

8 **SECTION 3. *Specific and General Powers.*** – To carry out the  
9 purposes mentioned in the preceding Section, the PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE  
10 shall have the following powers:

- 11 a. To establish, keep, maintain and operate one central experiment  
12 station to undertake extensive research in onion culture and  
13 production, including studies as to the feasibility of merchandizing  
14 onion farms, the control and eradication of pests, and the selection  
15 of high yielding varieties of onions suited to the country's climatic  
16 conditions;
- 17 b. To acquire, obtain and purchase such machinery, materials,  
18 equipment and supplies as may be necessary to execute such  
19 researches and experiments work successfully;
- 20 c. To buy, sell, assign, operate, rent or lease any other equipment  
21 and materials for the production, manufacture, handling,  
22 transportation and warehousing of onions;
- 23 d. To grant loans, on reasonable terms to planters when it deems  
24 such loans advisable; and
- 25 e. Generally, to exercise all powers necessary to carry out the  
26 purposes for which it is created, in accordance with existing laws,  
27 rules and regulations.

## 28 Chapter III

### 29 GOVERNING BODY

30 **SECTION 4. *Composition and Appointment.*** – All corporate powers  
31 of the PHIL ONIONS INSTITUTE shall be vested in, and exercised by, a Board  
32 of Directors consisting of five (5) members to be appointed by the President of  
33 the Philippines: *Provided*, That at least one of the members shall come from the  
34 Province of Nueva Ecija and the other one shall come from another onion-  
35 growing province: *Provided, further*, That three (3) members of said Board shall  
36 be appointed upon recommendation of the National Federation of Onion

1 Planters: *Provided, finally*, That the Chairperson of the Board shall be elected  
2 by the members among themselves.

3 **SECTION 5. *Tenure and Compensation.*** – The members of the Board  
4 shall serve as designated by the President of the Philippines in their respective  
5 appointments for terms of two, four, and six years, respectively from the date  
6 they qualify and assume office. Compensation of the members shall be  
7 determined in accordance with existing laws.

8 **SECTION 6. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors.*** – The  
9 Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- 10 a. To prescribe rules and regulations governing the manners in which  
11 the general business of the corporation may be exercised;
- 12 b. To appoint and fix compensation of the General Manager, other  
13 officers of the corporation, with the approval of the Secretary of  
14 Agriculture. The Board, by a vote of majority of all members, may,  
15 for just cause, suspend and remove the General Manager and  
16 other officers of the corporation;
- 17 c. To approve the annual and/or supplemental budgets of the  
18 corporation which may be submitted to it by the General Manager  
19 from time to time; and
- 20 d. To perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the  
21 President of the Philippines or by the Secretary of Agriculture.

22 **SECTION 7. *Suspension and Removal of Directors.*** – Any member  
23 of the Board of Directors may, for cause, be suspended or removed by the  
24 President of the Philippines solely upon the recommendation of the Secretary  
25 of Agriculture.

26 **SECTION 8. *Prohibition for Board Members.*** – No chairperson or  
27 member of the Board of Directors of this corporation shall at the same time  
28 serve in other corporation or agency in any capacity whatsoever, unless  
29 authorized by existing laws.

## 30 **Chapter IV**

### 31 **MANAGEMENT**

32 **SECTION 9. *The General Manager*** – The management of the  
33 corporation shall be vested in the General Manager.

34 **SECTION 10. *Powers and Duties of the General Manager.*** – The  
35 General Manager shall have the following powers and duties:



- 1 a. To direct and manage the affairs of and business of the corporation  
2 in behalf of the Board of Directors and subject to its control and  
3 supervision;
- 4 b. To sit in all meetings of the Board and participate in the  
5 deliberations thereon, but without the right to vote;
- 6 c. To submit within six (6) days after the close of each fiscal year an  
7 annual report, through the Board of Directors, to the Secretary of  
8 Agriculture; and
- 9 d. To perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the  
10 Board of Directors from time to time.

## 11 Chapter V

### 12 CIVIL SERVICE LAW APPLICATION

13 **SECTION 11. *Application of Civil Service Law and Regulation.*** – All  
14 officers and employees of the corporation shall be subject to the Civil Service  
15 Law, rules and regulations, except those whose position may, upon  
16 recommendation of the Board, be declared by the President of the Philippines  
17 as policy-determining, primarily confidential or highly technical in nature.

18 **SECTION 12.** The financial transactions of the PHIL ONIONS  
19 INSTITUTE shall be audited in accordance with existing laws and  
20 administrative regulations. A report of audit for each fiscal year by the Auditor,  
21 through the Commission on Audit, to the Board of Directors, and copies  
22 thereof, shall be furnished to the Secretary of Agriculture.

## 23 Chapter VI

### 24 FUNDING

25 **SECTION 13. *Funding.*** – To raise the necessary funds to carry out the  
26 provisions of this Act, an initial fund of Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) is  
27 hereby appropriated, to be charged against the appropriations intended for the  
28 Department of Agriculture under the current General Appropriations Act.  
29 Revolving funds shall be derived from the contributions of the Philippine  
30 Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office  
31 and from sources of foreign origin.

## 32 Chapter VII

### 33 LIQUIDATION

34 **SECTION 14. *Liquidation.*** – When its term or period of existence has  
35 expired in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall be liquidated in  
36 accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations thereof.

1       **SECTION 15. *Reversion to General Funds.*** – all hinds resulting from  
2 dissolution and liquidation of the corporation as herein provided shall *ipso jure*  
3 revert to the General Fund of the National Government.

4                               **Chapter VIII**

5                               **FINAL PROVISIONS**

6       **SECTION 16. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held  
7 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain  
8 in full force and effect.

9       **SECTION 17. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
10 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general  
11 circulation.

Approved,