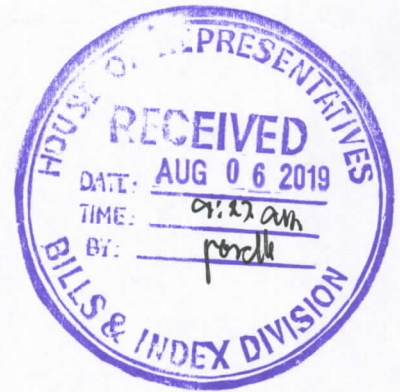


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3467



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2007, the Department of Education (DepEd) issued Memorandum No. 293 to implement the *Gulayan sa Paaralan* Program. The objective was to promote food security in schools and communities, through self-help food production activities. It also aimed to encourage the appreciation of agriculture as a life support system. The same program is currently being sustained in all public schools nationwide¹.

Establishing gardens in schools have become a great tool for educating outside of the classrooms. It promotes environmental stewardship² and has been seen to provide a number of benefits to school children, especially in the area of health³. Allotting a plot of land for this activity can, according to DepEd⁴, inculcate among learners the values of gardening, good health and nutrition, and love of labor.

School gardens, also and more importantly, teach the benefits of a healthy diet and lifestyle⁵. Students are enthused to reap the fruits of their labor and enjoy them, as these plots of small land provide them the chance to eat the food that they themselves grew. According to Agriculture Monthly, various research has showed that children

¹ Hernando-Malipot, Merlina. June 18, 2018. Manila Bulletin. <https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/06/18/deded-to-sustain-implementation-of-vegetable-production-program/>. Accessed July 30, 2019.

² Sprague, Patricia. 2016. "Instructional School Gardens: Opportunities for and barriers to scaling". Duquesne University. <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/d5a0/56678ea9e4dbbb07f730e7c2b57cc1c9015a.pdf>. Accessed July 30, 2019.

³ Denver Urban Gardens Resource. <https://www.slowfoodusa.org/contents/sdownload/3591/file/Benefits-of-School-Gardens-Denver-Urban-Gardens.pdf>. Accessed July 30, 2019.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ "The Benefits of having a school garden". <https://www.theeducatoronline.com/k12/news/the-benefits-of-having-a-school-garden/253071>. Accessed July 30, 2019.

who are involved with school gardening tend to eat more fruits and vegetables⁶. For a country with chronic malnutrition problems, the benefits of school gardens and the opportunity to teach children about nutrition cannot be ignored.

This bill proposes to replicate the program implemented by DepEd by establishing instructional gardens in elementary and secondary schools, whether private or public. This would mandate schools to devote a portion of their lots for the cultivation of vegetables and other nutrient rich plants as identified by the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Health. Schools lacking in land or those located in urban areas shall avail of hydroponic gardening methods and other organic gardening technologies.

This bill shall likewise mandate the inclusion of nutrition and health consciousness in the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools. Schools shall also develop a system of involving the parents of their students and the community at large to create opportunities for all to learn and cultivate the practice of planting vegetables, while reaping the benefits of eating healthy food. In the same manner that the *Gulayan sa Paaralan* Program of the DepEd aimed to address malnutrition among school children, this representation and the bill proposed intends the same.

This bill is filed as a counterpart to Senator Cynthia Villar's version in the Senate and its approval is earnestly sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

⁶ Yap, Julio Jr. 2018. Agriculture Monthly. <https://www.agriculture.com.ph/2019/02/11/school-gardens-are-important-to-children/>. Accessed July 30, 2019.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3467

Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT

**MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL GARDENS IN ALL
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, MAKING
IT A REQUIREMENT FOR THE CREATION AND ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR
SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Instructional Gardens Act of 2019”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end the State shall adopt and put in place hunger mitigation and poverty alleviation schemes to promote the nutrition, food security, and economic stability of its citizens.

To ensure the fulfillment of this goal, all educational institutions shall be required to include nutrition and health consciousness in their curriculum. They are mandated to devote a reasonable portion of their school lots to serve as instructional gardens for the growing of vegetables and other plants having nutritional value.

SECTION 3. Instructional Garden Definition. – A plot of school land or an area within a school devoted to the growing of vegetables and other nutritional plants that promotes interactive, hands-on learning in which pupils learn composting and waste

management techniques, fundamental concepts about nutrition and obesity prevention, and the cultural and historical aspects of agriculture and food and its role in the national economy.

SECTION 4. *Instructional Gardens Program.* – The Instructional Gardens Program shall be implemented in all elementary and secondary schools, public or private. They shall devote a portion of their school lots for the cultivation of vegetables and other nutrient rich plants as identified by the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Health, Department of Education and other concerned agencies.

Schools lacking in land or those located in urban areas shall avail of hydroponic gardening methods and other organic gardening technologies with the assistance of the Department of Science and Technology and other government agencies.

SECTION 5. *Nutrition and Health Consciousness.* – It shall be mandatory for all elementary and secondary schools to include nutrition and health consciousness in its curriculum as well as the cultural and historical aspects of agriculture and food production. This program shall be used to equally enhance any subject area including science, environmental education, mathematics, reading, writing, art, nutrition, physical education, history, and geography.

The schools shall develop a system of involving the parents of their students and the community at large in its instructional garden program to promote awareness on health and nutrition as well as the economic benefits of establishing a school, household and community garden.

SECTION 6. *Identification of Plot of Land.* – No school, elementary or secondary, shall be established without first securing an endorsement from the Division Superintendent attesting that a plot of land has been designated to form part of an instructional garden or an area has been identified where a garden using hydroponic gardening methods and other organic gardening technologies shall be located. The provisions of this section shall apply to schools seeking the issuance of permits for their academic programs.

SECTION 7. *Tax Incentives.* – All allocations of grants, endowments, donations, or contributions and technical assistance provided by the private individuals or

corporations to schools and other educational institutions for this purpose as certified by the Department of Education, shall be exempt from taxes and duties.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education, after consultation with other relevant agencies, schools and education and health advocacy groups shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current year's appropriations of the Department of Education (DepEd). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,