

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 345**



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The late Representative Pedro P. Romualdo originally filed this measure in the 15th Congress. It was refiled in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Congress and was approved by the House of Representatives on Third Reading.

Commonwealth Act No. 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act, was enacted in 1936. There is a need to amend the antiquated provisions of Section 24 of the Public Land Act to bring up to date the process of disposition of alienable public agricultural lands to qualified persons.

If the proposed amendments are enacted into law, the period for publication of notices of sale shall now be two (2) consecutive weeks, instead of six (6) consecutive weeks. Such notices shall be published just in English, instead of English and Spanish or in the local dialect. The threshold land value that will result in an exemption from the requirement of publication in the Official Gazette and in newspapers shall now be Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), instead of Two Hundred Forty Pesos (P240.00). Finally, the date on which public biddings shall be held and the awards of the lands to disposed of shall be made shall be thirty (30) days after the date of the notice of sale, instead of sixty (60) days.

In order for government to be able to better serve the people, we must revisit, review, and update our old statutes so that our laws are be able to respond to and meet the needs and demands of the present times. This proposed measure is a step in that direction.

Hence, with a view to streamlining and improving government systems, procedures, and processes, the kind and favorable support of the Members of Congress for the prompt and timely passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "X-JR", written in a cursive, stylized manner.

**XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO**

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**AN ACT**  
**SIMPLIFYING THE PROCEDURE IN THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC**  
**AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 24 OF**  
**COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PUBLIC LAND**  
**ACT"**

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 24 of Commonwealth Act No. 141 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2  
3 "Sec. 24. Lands sold under the provisions of this chapter must be appraised in  
4 accordance with section one hundred and sixteen of this Act. The [Director of  
5 Lands] **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL**  
6 **RESOURCES (DENR)** shall announce the sale thereof by publishing the proper  
7 notice once a week for [six] **TWO** consecutive weeks in the Official Gazette, and  
8 in two newspapers one published in **METRO** Manila and the other published in  
9 the municipality or in the province where the lands are located, or in a  
10 neighboring province, and the same notice shall be posted on the bulletin board of  
11 the [Bureau of Lands] **CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DENR** [in Manila], and in  
12 the most conspicuous place in the provincial building and the municipal building  
13 of the province and municipality, respectively, where the land is located, and, if  
14 practicable, on the land itself; but if the value of the land does not exceed [two  
15 hundred and forty] **FIFTY THOUSAND** pesos, the publication in the Official  
16 Gazette and newspapers may be omitted. The notices shall be published [one] in  
17 English [and the other in Spanish or in the local dialect,] and shall fix a date [not



1 earlier than sixty] **THIRTY** days after the date of the notice upon which the land  
2 will be awarded to the highest bidder, or public bids will be called for, or other  
3 action will be taken as provided in this chapter.”  
4

5 SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof  
6 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
7

8 SEC. 3. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the necessary  
9 rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.  
10

11 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or  
12 in a newspaper of general circulation.  
13

14 Approved,