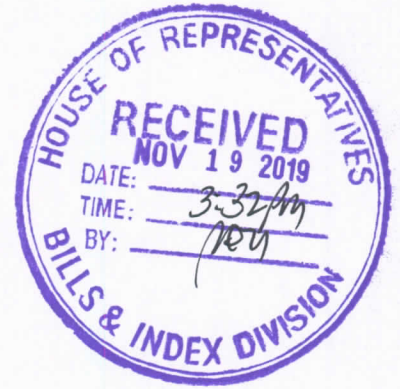


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 84

Submitted by the Committee on Natural Resources on **NOV 19 2019**
Re: House Bill No. 4119
Recommending its approval, without amendment.
Sponsors: Representative Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr. and Henry R. Villarica

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred House Bill No. 4119, introduced by Representative Henry R. Villarica, entitled:

AN ACT

REVERTING FISH PONDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED OR ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS TO FORESTLANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

has considered the same and recommends its approval without amendment, with Representatives Villarica, Barzaga, Romualdo, Fongwan, Gullas, Paduano, Ty, Salimbangon, Abueg-Zaldivar, Cuaresma, Plaza, Villanueva, Cullamat, Brosas, Gonzales (A.), Taduran, as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Natural Resources

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
Quezon City

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4119

Introduced by Representatives Henry R. Villarica and Elpidio F. Barzaga, Jr., Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Nestor B. Fongwan, Eduardo R. Gullas, Joseph Stephen S. Paduano, Diego C. Ty, Janice Z. Salimbangon, Cyrille F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Adolph Edward G. Plaza, Noel L. Villanueva, Eufemia C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas, Aurelio D. Gonzales, Jr., Niña Taduran

AN ACT
REVERTING FISH PONDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED
OR ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS TO
FORESTLANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43
OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE REVISED FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 43 of Presidential Decree No. 705, otherwise known as
2 “The Revised Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines” is hereby amended to read
3 as follows:

4 “SECTION 43. Swamplands and mangrove forests. xxx...

5 “Mangrove and other swamps released to the Bureau of
6 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for fishpond purposes which are
7 not utilized, or which have been abandoned for [five (5)] **THREE**
8 **(3)** years from the date of such release shall revert to the category
9 of forestland **AND SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY**
10 **REHABILITATED AND REFORESTED.**

1 **“THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE**
2 **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL**
3 **RESOURCES SHALL SET JOINT GUIDELINES FOR**
4 **DETERMINING ABANDONED, UNDEVELOPED OR**
5 **UNDERUTILIZED FISHPONDS COVERED BY FISHPOND**
6 **LEASE AGREEMENTS (FLAs) WHICH SHALL BE**
7 **REVERTED INTO FORESTLAND AND REHABILITATED.”**

8 **SEC. 2.** If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or
9 invalid, other parts or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
10 force and effect.

11 **SEC. 3.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts
12 thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
13 amended or modified accordingly.

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

16 Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

BILL SYNOPSIS

House Bill No. 4119

AN ACT
REVERTING FISH PONDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED OR
ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS TO
FORESTLANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
REVISED FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE HENRY R. VILLARICA**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

Committee Chairperson: **REPRESENTATIVE ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.**

OBJECTIVE:

- To shorten the period after which unutilized or abandoned fishponds can be reverted to forestlands

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Provides that fishponds that have been unutilized or abandoned for a period of three years shall be reverted to the category of forest land.
- Shortens the period within which unutilized or abandoned fishponds can be reverted to the category of forestlands fishponds from five (5) years to three (3) years.
- Mandates the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to set joint guidelines in the determination and rehabilitation and reforestation of abandoned, undeveloped or underutilized fishponds covered by Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs)

RELATED LAW:

- P.D. 705 – Revised Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines