

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **3119**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**RECEIVED**

DATE: **18 AUG 2016**

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**BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE**

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE SALVIO B. FORTUNO**

### EXPLANATORY NOTE


Republic Act No. 3601 was enacted to effectuate an economic means of achieving the optional and diversified utilization and control of water by undertaking integrated irrigation projects with the ends in view of promoting increased agricultural productivity in order to achieve the twin objectives of poverty alleviation and enhancement of the quality of life of the farmers in the rural areas. However, the law also authorizes the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) "To collect from the users of each irrigation system constructed by it such fees as may be necessary to finance the continuous operation of the system and reimburse within a certain period not less than twenty-five years the cost of construction thereof".

Due to the imposition of irrigation fees and administrative charges, coupled by low production and the rising cost of fertilizers, chemicals and farm labor, many farmers nationwide had defaulted in paying such financial obligations to the NIA.

Considering the time that has elapsed since its enactment on June 22, 1963, many developments had already happened in the agricultural sector that compelled the government not to rely on the collection of irrigation fees from the farmers. Instead, the government had infused huge funding for the construction of irrigation systems and water systems charged against the annual appropriation of the Department of Agriculture, under which the NIA is an attached agency.

This bill therefore seeks to abolish the collection of irrigation fees and other administrative charges and to condone the past debts incurred by the farmers arising from the financial obligations imposed by this antiquated law.

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

  
**SALVIO B. FORTUNO**  
Representative  
Fifth District, Camarines Sur

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AN ACT  
ABOLISHING THE COLLECTION OF FARMERS' IRRIGATION FEES AND  
OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES AND GRANTING  
CONDONATION OF UNPAID DEBTS, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE  
SECTION 2 (b) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED BY  
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 552

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 (b) of Republic Act No. 3601, as amended by  
Presidential Decree No. 552, is hereby repealed.

All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and  
regulations, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed  
or modified accordingly.

SEC. 2. All debts incurred from failure to pay irrigation service fees and  
administrative charges pursuant to Section 2 (b) of Republic Act No. 3601, as amended  
by Presidential Decree No. 552, are hereby condoned.

SEC. 2. This Act shall effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*