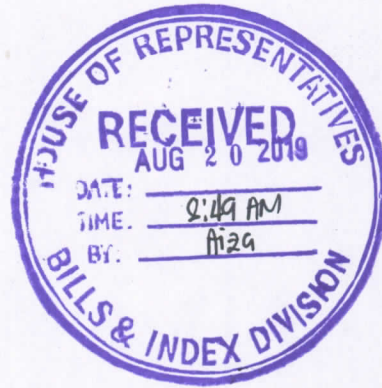




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. 4027

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**Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Basic agricultural functions and responsibilities are discharged to Local Government Units (LGUs) by virtue of Republic Act 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of 1991. It is in line with the goal of the national government to achieve economic development at the regional and local levels by decentralizing powers and responsibilities in favor of LGUs. The Code also provides an expanded platform for LGUs to make vital decisions in governing their local communities, therefore empowering them.

However, economic and political realities have impeded LGUs to fully exercise their agricultural functions, much to the detriment of poor and marginalized farmers. Among the challenges faced by LGUs include the poor implementation of agricultural programs due to the glaring disconnect between their devolved responsibilities and the financial resources available to them; local government officials who are expected to function both as economic managers and administrators of their localities; and the lack of appreciation of the devolved tasks, resulting in the underutilization of technical personnel.

It has further been observed that the devolution of agricultural extension services to LGUs has resulted to low agricultural productivity, hampered agricultural development, and food insecurity.

Clearly, there is a need for local governments to have its role re-examined and redefined in light of community interest, needs, and demands. This bill aims to rationalize agricultural services by amending several provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991. This representation maintains that reinstating the agricultural functions and responsibilities to the national level will not only help address the challenges posed by a demand-driven and fast-changing environment, but will also help alleviate the lives of poor and marginalized farmers.

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

  
**SHARON S. GARIN**  
Party-list, AAMBIS-OWA





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**AN ACT REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF BASIC AGRICULTURAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLVED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 17 of the Republic No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended:

Section 1.1 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Barangay on "Agricultural Support services which include planting materials distribution system and operation of farm produce collection and buying station," is hereby withdrawn from the Barangay and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (1), Par. 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991,

Section 1.2 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the Municipality on "Extension and on-site research services and facilities related to Agriculture and Fisheries activities which include dispersal of livestock and poultry, fingerlings and other seedlings materials for aquaculture; palay, corn and vegetable seed farms; medicinal plant gardens; fruit tree, coconut and other kinds of seedling nurseries; demonstration farms; quality control of copra and improvement and development of local distribution channels, preferably through cooperatives; inter- barangay irrigation system; water and soil resource utilization and conservation projects; and enforcement of fishery laws in municipal waters including the conservation of mangroves" is hereby withdrawn from the Municipality and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (2), Par. 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 1.3 The devolution of basic services and facilities to the province on "Agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities which include the prevention and control of pest and animal pest and diseases: dairy

farms, livestock markets, animal breeding station and artificial insemination centers, and assistance in the organization of farmer's and fishermen's cooperative and other collective organizations, as well as the transfer of appropriate technology," is hereby withdrawn from the Province and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (3), Par. 1, of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 1.4 The devolution of the basic services and facilities to the City "as embodied in the same basic services and facilities for Municipality and Province," Section 17, Item (bj), No. 2 and 3, Far 1, is hereby withdrawn from the city and reverted back to the National Government. This amends Section 17, item (b), No. (4), Par 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991.

**SEC. 2.** Accordingly, all personnel, technicians, facilities and properties previously transferred to the Barangay, Municipalities, Provinces and Cities shall be returned to the National Government.

**SEC. 3.** The funds necessary to cover the implementation of these amendments should be appropriated for agriculture and shall be provided for in the current General Appropriations Act and the years thereafter.

**SEC. 4.** For the purpose of this Act, an Agriculture and Fisheries Review Panel is hereby created to be composed of the following: the Secretary of Agriculture, as Chairman, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the President of National Agriculture and Fishery Council or their duly designated representatives, as members.

**SEC. 5.** The Agriculture and Fishery Review Panel in consultation with concerned sectors in the field, shall identify the problems of the industry under the re-nationalization set-up and recommend measures to enhance the agriculture productivity.

**SEC. 6.** All provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 not inconsistent with the foregoing amendments will remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

*Approved,*