Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1046

Submitted by the Committee on Agriculture and Food, Committee on Ways and Means, and Committee on Appropriations on June 2, 2021
Re: House Bill No. 9576

Recommendating its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1274, 3309, 3373, 3469, 4009, 4926, 6396, and 7728

Sponsors: Representatives Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga, Joey Sarte Salceda, Eric Go Yap and Deogracias Victor ‘DV’ B. Savellano

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Agriculture and Food, Committee on Ways and Means, and Committee on Appropriations to which were referred House Bill No. 1274, introduced by Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BIRDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 3309, introduced by Rep. Camille A. Villar, entitled:

“AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BIRDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 3373, introduced by Rep. Sharon S. Garin, entitled:

“AN ACT

TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY, PRESCRIBING ITS SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION, AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AS A PRIORITY PROGRAM, AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 3469, introduced by Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, entitled:

“AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING A PHILIPPINES BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM”;

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House Bill No. 4009, introduced by Rep. Henry R. Villarica, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL BAMBOO AND RATTAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO AND RATTAN CENTERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4926, introduced by Rep. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, entitled:

“AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BIRDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

House Bill No. 6396, introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

“AN ACT
TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY, PRESCRIBING ITS SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION, AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AS A PRIORITY PROGRAM, AND Allocating FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”; and

House Bill No. 7728, introduced by Rep. Alfred Vargas, entitled:

“AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BIDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 9576 entitled:

AN ACT
PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY BY STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR BAMBOO PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR


Respectfully submitted,

REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA
Chairperson
Committee on Agriculture and Food

REP. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
Chairperson
Committee on Ways and Means

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
AN ACT
PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY BY
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, PROVIDING INCENTIVES
FOR BAMBOO PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:
SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the ‘Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act.’

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to promote and support industries that generate employment especially in the rural areas, reduce poverty, foster a sustainable environment, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

It shall also be the policy of the State to foster a self-reliant and independent economy that supports indigenous, scientific and technological capabilities, and skills. To this end, the State shall recognize the strategic importance of the bamboo as a sturdy, versatile, and replenishable material that can be a sustainable source of livelihood and catalyst for agricultural productivity.

The State shall likewise ensure the integrated and continuous development of the Philippine bamboo industry through policies and programs that encourage the planting of bamboo, accelerate the development of bamboo-based products and designs, and promote Philippine bamboo products in international markets. It shall establish a program for a sustainable utilization, propagation and promotion of bamboo as furniture, food, construction and design material, and other uses.

SEC. 3. The Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program (PBIDP). The PBIDC shall formulate the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program which shall include programs and projects for the scientific propagation, development and management, processing, utilization, business development, and commercialization of Philippine bamboo and bamboo products, through the cooperation of all stakeholders of the industry that include producers of raw materials, processors, marketing and promotion service providers, and concerned national agencies and local government units (LGUs).

SEC. 4. Objectives of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program. The PBIDP shall aim to make the Philippine bamboo industry competitive in the local and global markets and provide opportunities for local employment and the establishment of bamboo-based community enterprises. The PBIDP shall:

(a) Ensure that the bamboo industry has sufficient quality raw materials through the establishment and management of bamboo nurseries and plantations;
(b) Ensure that the bamboo industry continuously receives from the research and development sector relevant technologies and new products;
(c) Ensure that the industry receives pertinent and accurate data from the PBIDC upon which the industry can make business decisions;
(d) Promote investment in the bamboo industry by establishing bamboo plantations and bamboo processing operations, and providing substantial incentives to investors;
(e) Provide skilled labor and manpower through continuous relevant capacity building;
(f) Provide continuous training and capacity building in the bamboo industry development;
(g) Ensure provision of locally manufactured machines of improved capacity and quality at competitive costs;
(h) Ensure markets of bamboo products locally and globally; and
(i) Ensure sustainable resources for implementing the bamboo industry development program.

SEC. 5. Role of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC). The Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC), created under Executive Order No. 879, series of 2010, hereinafter referred to as the Council shall provide the overall policy and
program directions of various agencies and instrumentalities to ensure the implementation of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program (PBIDP).

The Council shall be administratively attached to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and shall now be composed of the following:

a) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as Chairperson;
b) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
c) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
d) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd);
e) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
f) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
g) Executive Director of the Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center;
h) Chairperson of the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples;
i) National President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines;
j) Executive Director of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines;
k) Two (2) Representatives from Non-Government Organizations;
l) One Representative from a reputable private industry association; and
m) One Representative each from the Bamboo Farmers, the Bamboo Manufacturers, and the Bamboo Processors’ Associations.

The PBIDC shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the attainment of the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 6. Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center (BIRDC). The Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, is hereby created to serve as the secretariat of the Council to be headed by an Executive Director. The Center shall consist of divisions as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Center, including the following functions: research and development; trade promotion and education; networking and linkages; internal administration and finance; and such other divisions as may be necessary.

The organizational structure, staffing pattern and compensation schedule of the Center shall be prepared in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. Other member agencies of the Council shall provide additional administrative and technical staff support to the Center upon the determination by the Council of the necessity for such augmentation.

The Center shall perform the following powers and functions:
a) Promote and encourage the establishment and management of bamboo nurseries, plantations and processing facilities that would accelerate the production and commercialization of bamboo and various bamboo products;
b) Promote the commercialization and market access of appropriate, innovative and viable bamboo industry development technologies and products;
c) Monitor and evaluate the performance of bamboo industry development programs and projects;
d) Coordinate and partner with other government agencies in the implementation of bamboo industry development programs and projects;
e) Coordinate and partner with the private sector, people's organizations and non-governmental organizations, and the academe in providing assistance on matters pertaining to bamboo industry development;
f) Accept grants, donations and contributions from local and international donors and such similar sources of funds for the implementation of the provisions of this Act, subject to the usual budget, accounting and auditing rules and regulations;
g) Conduct capability-building initiatives for farmers, processors, designers, and other stakeholders in the bamboo industry;

h) Conduct research and development in partnership with appropriate government agencies to advance sustainable bamboo industry development practices;

i) Supervise the implementation of the plans and programs of the Council;

j) Manage and administer the projects identified by the Council;

k) Conduct, in cooperation or partnership with appropriate government agencies, a periodic review of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap; and

l) Submit periodic reports to the Council on the progress and accomplishment of programs and projects.

SEC. 7. **The Executive Director of the Center.** The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the PBIDC with the approval of the Council. The Executive Director shall be a citizen and resident of the Philippines and must possess executive and management experience of at least three (3) years, and considerable knowledge about the bamboo industry.

In addition, the Executive Director shall have the following powers and functions:

a) Oversee the day-to-day operations of the Center;

b) Provide technical and administrative support to the Council;

c) Assist the Council in the performance of its tasks; and

d) Perform such other functions, duties and responsibilities as may be necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 8. **Support to the Program by Local Government Units.** Local government units (LGUs) shall participate in the implementation of the PBIDP. Each LGU shall establish a Bamboo Industry Development Council and shall endeavor to capacitate agricultural workers and encourage entrepreneurs to acquire the needed competencies in harvesting and post-harvesting operations.

Provincial governments shall formulate and implement their respective bamboo industry development programs within two (2) years from the enactment of this law.

SEC. 9. **Incentives for bamboo in plantation development.** The following incentives shall be provided to investors in bamboo plantation development:

a) Exemption from the payment of rent for the use of government lands for commercial bamboo plantation for the first five (5) years of operation reckoned from the date of the first harvest of the plantation;

b) Exemption of private plantations from the requirements to secure a cutting permit for the harvesting of bamboo and a transport permit for as long as the plantation is registered with the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the DENR: Provided, that the plantation owner shall inform the CENRO about the date of harvest, and the estimated volume that of the harvest. Inventory of the plantation prior to harvest shall not be required. All CENROs shall approve and enter into a registry, the names of private bamboo plantation investors;

c) Exemption from the payment of forest charges and other fees for taxes that local government units may impose;

d) No inspection of harvested bamboo at check points;

e) Access to development loans from public financial institutions for plantation developers;

f) Insurance coverage of plantations and plantation development equipment by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC);
g) Tax free importation of plantation development equipment, including tree nursery facilities, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act;

h) Expenses incurred for plantation operations shall be allowed as deductible expenses for income tax purposes, subject to the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended: Provided, that the deduction shall only apply to the Taxable Period when the expenses were incurred;

i) Expenses incurred in the development and operation of a bamboo plantation prior to the commercial harvest shall be regarded as ordinary and necessary expenses or as capital expenditure;

j) Prioritized access for plantation developers to credit assistance from government-owned, controlled and/or supported financial institutions;

k) Acceptance of plantation as collateral for loans in government owned or controlled banks;

l) For tenured developer, entitlement to fair compensation upon the premature termination of the agreement at no fault of the holder: Provided, that all depreciable permanent and semi-permanent improvements such as roads, buildings, and nurseries including the planted and standing trees and other forest crops introduced and retained in the area, shall be properly evaluated: Provided further, that the amount of compensation shall be mutually agreed upon by both the Department and the tenure-holder: Provided finally, that in case of disagreement between them, the matter shall be submitted to arbitration by a mutually acceptable and impartial third party adjudicator;

m) Exportation of bamboo culms from plantation without restrictions in volume;

n) Tax free importation of processing equipment by processors engaged in bamboo industry, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act; and

o) Inclusion in the annual investment program of the National Economic Development Authority of industrial bamboo plantations in forest lands and priority access to funds from external and internal sources.

SEC. 10. Appropriations. The funds necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s budget of the DTI. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DTI-PBIDC shall, in coordination with the DENR, and DOST promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act or part hereof is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,
AN ACT
PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY BY
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER, PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR BAMBOO
PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by: Representatives Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Camille A.
Villar, Sharon S. Garin, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Henry R.
Villarica, “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Rufus B. Rodriguez, and
Alfred Vargas

Committee Referrals: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chairpersons: REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA
REP. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
REP. ERIC GO YAP

OBJECTIVE:

- To promote the growth and development of the Philippine bamboo industry, make it more
  competitive in foreign markets, and enable it to become a major revenue and employment
  generator.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Institutionalizes the Philippine Bamboo Industry Council (PBIC) which is tasked to
  provide the overall policy and program directions of the bamboo industry, and coordinate
  the activities of government bodies to ensure the success of the industry.

- Establishes the Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center (BIRDC) which shall
  serve as the secretariat of the Council to be headed by an Executive Director.

- Mandates the PBIC to formulate the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program
  (PBIDP) which shall include programs and projects for scientific propagation, development
  and commercialization of Philippine bamboo and bamboo products that will be competitive
  in the local and global markets.

- Directs the Provincial and the Municipal Local Government Units to establish their
  respective Bamboo Industry Development Councils that shall formulate and implement
their respective Bamboo Industry Development Programs within two (2) years from the enactment of this law.

- Provides incentives to investors in plantation development and bamboo processing factories.

- Stipulates that the funds necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the CY budget of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Related Laws:

RA 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act
RA 8424, National Internal Revenue Code of 1997