

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6516, July 22, 1972 ]**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL PUBLIC LANDS AND AUTHORIZING DISTRICT LAND OFFICERS IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE BUREAU OF LANDS TO SIGN PATENTS OR CERTIFICATES COVERING LANDS NOT EXCEEDING FIVE HECTARES, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED FORTY-ONE.**

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

SECTION 1. Section twenty-five of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred forty-one, otherwise known as the "Public Land Act," is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 25. Public agricultural lands which are not located within ten (10) kilometers from the boundaries of the city proper in chartered cities or within five (5) kilometers from the municipal hall or town plaza of any municipality may be sold to actual occupants who do not own any parcel of land or whose total landholdings do not exceed five hectares and who comply with the minimum requirements of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred forty-one, as amended, and who have resided on the land applied for at least two years prior to the date of the application.

"All bids must be sealed and addressed to the Director of Lands and must have enclosed therewith cash or certified check, treasury or post-office money order payable to order of the Director of Lands, for ten *per centum* or the amount of the bid, which amount shall be retained in case the bid is accepted as a part payment of the purchase priced: *Provided*, That no bid shall be considered the amount of which is less than the appraised value of the land.

"In addition to existing publication requirements in Section twenty-four of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred forty-one, as amended, notices of applications shall be posted for a period of not less than thirty days in at least three conspicuous places in the municipality where the parcel of land is located, one of which shall be at the municipal building, and other, in the barrio council building of the barrio where the land is located."

SEC. 2. Section twenty-six of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 26. Upon the opening of the bids, the land shall be awarded to the highest bidder. If there are two or more equal bids which are higher than the others, and one of such equal bids is that of the applicant, his bid shall be accepted If, however, the bid of the applicant is not one of such