

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

13 SEP 26 P 4 :01

SENATE
S. No. 1740

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In his column *On The Other Hand* dated 6 July 2007, Professor Antonio C. Abaya wrote of a program of government he had drafted upon the undersigned's request in 1992. The program called for the organization of "student volunteers into production brigades to build housing for the underprivileged, and for the housing beneficiaries to be organized into manufacturing cooperatives that would fabricate the component housing materials." Today, such a program is needed more than ever, given the population growth of people living in depressed urban areas. Through the laudable efforts of non-government organizations like *Gawad Kalinga* and its volunteers who construct homes for the homeless, the first part of the program appears to have been met. What remains to be accomplished is the organization of the housing beneficiaries into manufacturing cooperatives that will fabricate the component housing materials needed for the construction of their homes.

This bill seeks to establish a national program to provide assistance for the organization of housing beneficiaries into manufacturing cooperatives that will fabricate the component housing materials needed for the construction of their houses pursuant to a housing program, and to ensure that such cooperatives continue to function until the termination of such housing program.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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AN ACT

CREATING A PROGRAM PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF HOUSING
BENEFICIARIES INTO MANUFACTURING COOPERATIVES FOR THE FABRICATION
OF HOUSING MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR THE CONTRUCTION OF THEIR HOUSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Housing Beneficiaries Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote the general
welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, it shall establish a national program providing for
the organization of housing beneficiaries into manufacturing cooperatives that will fabricate the
materials needed for the construction of their houses.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term

(A) “Housing beneficiaries” means the underprivileged and homeless citizens under
Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the “Urban Development and Housing Act”, and to
individuals and families residing in the urban and urbanized areas whose income or combined
household income falls within the poverty threshold, as defined by the National Economic and
Development Authority, and who do not own housing facilities. The term shall include those
who live in makeshift dwelling units and do not enjoy security of tenure, except professional
squatters and squatting syndicates.

(B) “Housing programs” means those programs and projects covering houses and lots
or homelots undertaken by the government or private sector through a non-governmental
organization for the underprivileged and homeless citizens which shall include, but shall not be
limited to, construction services, financial assistance, and sites and services development.

1 (C) "Professional squatters" means individuals or groups who occupy lands without
2 the expressed consent of the land owner and who have sufficient income for legitimate housing.
3 The term shall also apply to persons who have previously been awarded homelots or housing
4 units by the government but who sold, leased or transferred the same to settle illegally in the
5 same place or in another urban area and non-*bona fide* occupants and intruders of lands reserved
6 for socialized housing. The term shall not apply to individual or groups who simply rent land and
7 housing from professional squatters or squatting syndicates.

8 (D) "Squatting syndicates" means a group of persons engaged in the business of
9 squatter housing for profit or gain.

10 (E) "Department" means the Department of Interior and Local Government.

11 (F) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Interior and Local Government.

12 SECTION 4. *Manufacturing Cooperatives.* – There is hereby established a program to
13 provide assistance for the organization of housing beneficiaries into manufacturing cooperatives
14 that will fabricate the materials needed for the construction of their houses, pursuant to a housing
15 program as defined in Section 3(B). Such program shall be under the direction of the Secretary
16 of Interior and Local Government. The Secretary shall likewise ensure that the program
17 continues to provide assistance to the manufacturing cooperatives until the termination of such
18 housing program.

19 SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the
20 promulgation of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations
21 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

22 The Secretary shall submit a report to the House of Representatives and the Senate,
23 prior to, but in no event later than, December thirty-first, in the year following the passage of this
24 Act, and annually thereafter, which shall include, but not be limited to:

25 (A) Financial reports of the project operations established pursuant to this Act;

1 (B) An analysis of the project's ability to provide assistance for the organization of
2 housing beneficiaries into manufacturing cooperatives and such cooperatives' continued
3 existence for the duration of the construction project;

4 (C) Recommendations on the continuation of such program and the need for
5 program expansion, if appropriate;

6 (D) Other information deemed necessary.

7 SECTION 6. *Funding for Program.* – The funds to be used to implement this Act shall be
8 allocated from the annual appropriations of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

9 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
11 valid and subsisting.

12 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
13 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
14 with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

15 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,