

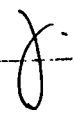
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



16 JUL 19 AIO :12

SENATE

S.B. No. 416

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MANDATORY NATIONWIDE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM IN ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND BARANGAY DAY CARE CENTERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

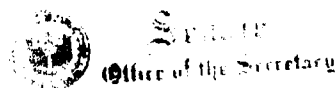
Under the Constitution, it is the State policy to protect and promote the right to health and instill health consciousness among the people.

This bill proposes a system-wide plan to implement a nutrition and health program for children in the schools and barangay day care centers, consisting of a complementary feeding program. This intervention is urgent, as undernutrition is largely preventable and the World Bank has reported of exceptionally high development returns to a number of direct nutrition interventions.

This legislative measure also seeks to improve child attendance and survival rates in day care centers and schools by ensuring that adequate health and nutrition programs are accessible to young children.

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


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator



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

- 1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Child Nutrition Law.”
- 2
- 3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to promote the
- 4 rights of children to survival, development, and special protection with full
- 5 recognition of the nature of childhood and its special needs, and to support the
- 6 nutritional needs of children to enhance their learning capacities in compulsory
- 7 basic education. To this end, the State shall institutionalize a mandatory child
- 8 nutrition program in all and public elementary schools and barangay day care
- 9 centers that is comprehensive, integrative, and sustainable on a national basis.
- 10
- 11 **Sec. 3. Obejctives.** – The objectives of the mandatory child nutrition program are:
- 12
- 13 1. To identify the portion of school children population that is malnourished,
- 14 with characterization of feeding habits, food preparation, and water
- 15 supply;
- 16 2. To achieve improved child attendance and survival rates in day care
- 17 centers and schools by ensuring that adequate health and nutrition
- 18 programs are accessible to young children throughout the early childhood
- 19 years;
- 20 3. To integrate basic knowledge of good nutrition, including family nutrition
- 21 practices in school curricula;
- 22 4. To enhance physical, social, emotional cognitive, psychological, spiritual,
- 23 and language development of young children;
- 24 5. To enhance the role of public elementary schools and barangay day care
- 25 centers as surrogate caregivers of children;
- 26 6. To facilitate the learning process through healthy body and physical
- 27 environment;
- 28 7. To ensure that young children are adequately prepared for the formal
- 29 learn ing system and that both public elementary schools and
- 30 barangay day care centers are responsive to the developmental needs of
- 31 these children; and
- 32 8. To establish an efficient system for early identification, prevention,
- 33 referral, and intervention for developmental disorders and disabilities in
- 34 early childhood.
- 35

1 **Sec. 4. Program Framework.** – The mandatory child nutrition program shall
2 beprovided for children enrolled or studying in public elementary schools and
3 barangay day care centers regardless of age. The program shall include:

- 4
5 1. Complementary feeding to ensure access to food supplements which will
6 improve nutritional status. This activity may also be used as a venue for other
7 nutrition-related activities such as micronutrient supplementation, weighing
8 and growth monitoring, deworming of children, promotion of improved hygiene
9 practices including handwashing, and emergency feeding during and
10 after disasters. Health and nutrition counseling and education, and treatment
11 of severe undernutrition with ready-to-use therapeutic foods may also form an
12 integral part of this activity and health personnel may be tapped as
13 resource persons.
- 14 2. Dietary diversification/backyard gardening to assure availability of nutritious
15 food in the local areas. Enhancing community resources accessible to local
16 households and managed by the community will be an effective strategy to
17 address lack of nutritious food therein.

18
19 **Sec. 5. Holistic Approach.** – Every agency of the national and local governments
20 shall cooperate and extend full support and cooperation and make available such
21 materials, data, and other resources as may be necessary to ensure the successful
22 implementation of this Act. In particular:

23
24 The Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Education, the
25 Department of Agriculture, and the appropriate barangay, shall review the plans,
26 programs, and implementation of the school or day care complementary feeding
27 program with the purpose of identifying:

- 28 1. Ways and means of increasing the volume of complementary feeding with
29 particular attention to local food components;
- 30 2. Priority areas of the country where greater attention is needed in terms of a
31 higher density of undernourished school children; and
- 32 3. The groups of school children most likely to benefit from complementary
33 feeding.

34
35 The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall assist in monitoring the
36 weight and health of children participating in the school complementary feeding
37 program. The Department of Agriculture and the National Food Authority shall
38 also make available warehouse, trucking, and facilities.

39
40 The Department of Interior and Local Government shall help enlist the support of
41 local government units in the accomplishment of program objectives.

42 The National Economic and Development Authority shall assist in the
43 determination of official development assistance sources to expand the inputs
44 into the school complementary feeding program.

45
46 The Department of Budget and Management shall help prepare work and financial
47 plans covering the food assistance program, particularly the peso counterpart
48 requirement involved in the freight, insurance, storage, and other
49 requirements for effective food handling and distribution.

50 The Department of Trade and Industry shall look for cost-effective sources for
51 components of the program, including but not limited to food stuffs, vaccines, and
52 dietary supplements.

53
54 **Sec. 6. Selection of Priority Areas.** – The Department of Health, in consultation
55 with the Department of Education and the Department of Social Welfare and
56 Development, shall select at least five (5) regions for each year based on the criteria

1 provided herein in order to achieve a national coverage for a period of three (3)
2 years. All barangays within the selected region shall establish their respective
3 mandatory child nutrition program within a period of six (6) months.

4
5 The following criteria shall be considered in the selection of priority regions:

- 6 1. Low level of participation of 3-5 year old population in existing day care and pre-
7 school services; and
- 8 2. Number of provinces and cities with high incidence of poverty, low birth weight,
9 infant, and under-five (5) mortality, malnutrition, maternal mortality, low partici-
10 pation rate in Grade 1, and high drop-out rate among Grade 1 pupils.

11
12 **Sec. 7. Self-Starting Barangays.** – A self-selection alternative is available for ba-
13 rangays not selected as priority site for a given year but which can afford to institu-
14 tionalize a mandatory child nutrition program in its locality.

15
16 **Sec. 8. Fund for the Mandatory Child Nutrition Program.** – The funds for the es-
17 tablishment, maintenance, and operation of the mandatory child nutrition program
18 shall be appropriated from the following sources;

- 19
20 1. Ten percent (10%) of the recorded income of the general fund accruing
21 from the interest on deposit accounts and performance bonds and any
22 forfeited amounts therefrom. Performance bonds and deposits filed or
23 posted by private persons or entities with agencies of the government shall
24 be deposited with an authorized government depository bank as trust liabi-
25 lities and under the name of the agency concerned.
- 26 2. Ten percent (10%) of the total amount specifically identified and autho-
27 rized intelligence and confidential funds as provided for in the budgets of
28 departments, bureaus, offices or agencies of the national government,
29 which shall be prorated among them.
- 30 3. Fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount automatically appropriated for
31 debt service compounding both interest payment and principal amortiza-
32 tion thereon.

33
34 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and
35 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
36 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

37
38 **Sec. 10. Separability Clause.** – In the event that any provision of this Act is decla-
39 red unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by
40 such declaration.

41
42 **Sec. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publica-
43 tion in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

44
45 Approved,