



SENATE
S.B. NO. 563

'19 JUL 17 P 2 :44

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE FOOD FOR CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND DAY
CARE CENTERS FROM PRODUCTS OF FARMERS PURCHASED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SCHOOL FEEDING
PURCHASED FROM LOCAL FARMERS PROGRAM"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being."

Article XIII, Section 5 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing and other support services."

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "even short-term hunger can adversely affect a child's ability to learn." This holds true since undernutrition disrupts a child's mental and physical development leading to poor

productivity, concentration, critical thinking, creativity, and negatively affecting their social abilities. It also makes a child more vulnerable to diseases, disabilities, and even death.

Due to the lack of resources and information regarding healthy and affordable meal preparations, parents are unable to provide their children nutritious meals. Therefore, student performance and retention is affected because they attend classes with an empty stomach or is given junk food as an alternative.

Parents are expected to provide the basic needs of their children which include clean, sufficient, and nutritious food. However, the government must also support and educate its people, especially the poor who are most vulnerable to hunger.

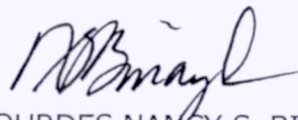
Moreover, creating a sustainable and competitive agricultural industry ought to be the main focus of the government. Generating sustainability and steady growth across an industry that regularly faces challenges ranging from transportation and sustainability to volatile weather.

In addition, local farmers' agricultural products are essential to the Philippine economy as well as the country's food security. In 2017, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that 10.26 million Filipinos were employed in agriculture alone. Due to this, it will be beneficial for agricultural sector if the government will utilize the produce of local farmers for the program.

The proposed bill seeks to provide free nutritious food for children in public schools and day care centers, sourced from local farmers. Investing in children's nutrition is a priority of the Philippine Government to ensure that nutritional deficiency will not be an impediment to the mental and physical development of Filipino children. The bill also seeks to further the growth of the local agricultural

sector by utilizing their harvest as raw materials for the proposed school based feeding program.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML Binay', is positioned above the printed name.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "School Feeding
2 Purchased From Local Farmers Program."

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to feed our
5 children and secure their education. It is also the policy of the State to free our
6 people from poverty by providing a guaranteed market for the products of our
7 farmers, thereby promoting full employment in the agricultural sector, presently
8 the sector with the highest poverty incidence.

9
10 Sec. 3. *Breakfast Feeding Program.* – A breakfast feeding program shall
11 be mandatory in all public day care centers, preschools, and elementary schools.
12 This breakfast feeding program shall be administered by the Secretary of the
13 Department of Education.

14 School breakfasts shall be made available free of charge to school children
15 in all public day care centers, preschools, and elementary schools. Feeding shall
16 be done in the morning, preferably before the start of classes.

1 School breakfasts must meet the applicable recommendations of the Food
2 and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). The decisions about what specific food
3 to serve and how they are prepared shall be made by the school authorities,
4 based on guidelines to be issued by the Secretary of the Department of
5 Education.

6
7 *Sec. 4. Guaranteed Market for Farmers Fund.* – A Guaranteed Market for
8 Farmers Fund shall be established which shall be administered by the
9 Department of Education. Five Billion Pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) shall be
10 appropriated from the National Treasury for this purpose upon the effectivity of
11 this Act. For every succeeding year thereafter, such amount shall be increased by
12 increments of at least Five Billion Pesos (P5,000,000,000.00) shall be
13 appropriated from the National Treasury for this purpose upon the effectivity of
14 this Act. For every succeeding year thereafter, such amount shall be increased by
15 increments of at least Five Billion Pesos (P5,000,000,000.00).

16
17 *Sec. 5. Guaranteed Market for Farmers.* – Farmers, identified by the
18 Department of Agriculture and the Department of Social Welfare and
19 Development under the National Household Targeting Survey to be living in
20 poverty, shall be given a guarantee that their produce shall be purchased by the
21 government. The maximum amount to be allocated for each farmer shall be
22 determined so as to ensure that their net income shall not fall below the poverty
23 threshold for their respective localities/regions.

24
25 *Sec. 6. Technical Training and Assistance.* – The Secretary of the
26 Department of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department
27 of Health, the Director of the FNRI, and the Director-General/Secretary of the
28 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall develop a
29 program to provide the food service personnel of public day care centers,
30 preschools, and elementary schools with technical training and assistance to

1 prepare healthy meals. The same personnel shall be responsible for security the
2 produce of the identified farmers from the respective localities.

3

4 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days
5 from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education, the
6 Secretary of the Department of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare and
7 Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Director of
8 the FNRI, the Director-General/Secretary of the TESDA, and other appropriate
9 government agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement
10 the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15)
11 days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

12

13 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held
14 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not
15 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

16

17 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
18 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
19 contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
20 modified, or amended accordingly.

21

22 *Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
23 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,