

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session

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Senate

Office of the Secretary

SENATE
S.B. NO. 873

'19 AUG -6 P3:47

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RECEIVED BY:

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A LABELING AND NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS
PROGRAM THAT REQUIRES SCHOOLS TO POST NUTRITIONAL
CONTENT INFORMATION REGARDING FOOD SERVED IN THEIR
CANTEENS

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."

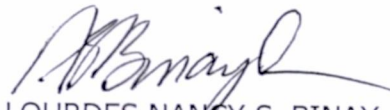
Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State shall protect and promote the right to health and instill health consciousness among them."

Nutrition is the intake of food considered in relation to the body's dietary needs. According to the World Health Organization, poor nutrition can lead to reduced immunity, increased susceptibility to disease, impaired physical and mental development, and reduced productivity. Hence it is our objective to ensure that good nutritional choices becomes a part of their everyday life. In addition it can help them reach and maintain a healthy weight, reduce the risk of chronic diseases and promote overall health.

The proposed bill seeks to establish a program that will require schools to post nutritional content information regarding the food served at schools and guide students to make the right choices in selecting good food in order to lead them to a healthy lifestyle.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Binay', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

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SENATE
S.B. NO. 873

'19 AUG -6 P3:48

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. ~~Reynolds~~ Reynolds

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A LABELING AND NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS
PROGRAM THAT REQUIRES SCHOOLS TO POST NUTRITIONAL
CONTENT INFORMATION REGARDING FOOD SERVED IN THEIR
CANTEENS**

*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 “Healthy Food
2 Choices for Kids Act.”

3
4 Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term –

5 (A) “Nutritionist-dietitian” refers to any person who meets the
6 educational and training requirements to become a licensed
7 nutritionist-dietitian by the Professional Regulation
8 Commission; and

9 (B) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Department of
10 Education.

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12 Sec. 3. *School Labeling and Nutritional Awareness Pilot Program.* –

13 (A) In General. – The Secretary shall award grants to not more
14 than five regions to assist not more than ten schools in each
15 of such regions in carrying out a pilot program that requires
16 schools:

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- (1) To post nutritional content information in school canteens regarding the food items served in the canteens; and
- (2) To teach students about how to make health food selections.

(B) Grant Amount. – The Secretary shall ensure that each grant awarded is of sufficient size and scope to carry out the pilot program.

(C) Duration of Grants. – The Secretary may award grants for multiple years to regions that meet the grant requirements.

(D) Grant Requirement. – To qualify to receive a grant, a region shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require, including:

- (1) An assurance that the region will ensure that each school awarded a subgrant meets the pilot program requirements within one year of such subgrant award;
- (2) A plan to inform all the schools within the region about the pilot program and the school application requirements;
- (3) An assurance that the region will use not less than ninety five percent (95%) of the grant funds to award subgrants to schools;
- (4) An assurance that the region will award such subgrants to at least three, but not more than five, schools in such region that have in effect a program to provide nutritional content information regarding food items served in the canteens of such schools to students attending such schools; and

1 (5) An assurance that the region will award such
2 subgrants to at least three (3), but not more than
3 five (5), schools that are located in the rural areas of
4 such region.

5 (E) Subgrant Requirements. – To qualify to receive a subgrant, a
6 school shall submit an application to a region receiving a grant
7 at such time, in such manner, and containing such information
8 and assurances as the Secretary may require, including:

9 (1) A plan for implementing the pilot program, including:

10 (a) Efforts to ensure that nutritional content
11 information, including caloric information,
12 regarding the food items served in the
13 school's canteen is posted in a visible
14 location at the point of decision in the
15 canteen and that such information is
16 readable and appropriate for the students
17 who attend the school and the parents or
18 legal guardians of such students;

19 (b) Efforts to develop and implement, or
20 expand a school wellness program or other
21 nutritional awareness program to include an
22 educational program to teach students at
23 the school about making health food
24 selections; and

25 (c) Efforts to consult with a licensed
26 nutritionist-dietitian at least once a year
27 regarding the pilot program requirements
28 described in clauses (a) and (b) and any
29 related nutritional matters;

1 (2) A certification of support for participation in the pilot
2 program signed by the school food manager, school
3 nurse, school principal, and district superintendent
4 (or equivalent positions, as determined by the
5 school); and

6 (3) Whether the school plans to post the nutritional
7 content information on the school's website.

8 (F) Guidance; Encouragement. –

9 (1) *Guidance.* – The Secretary shall provide guidance to
10 the regions and schools receiving grants or
11 subgrants to assist such regions and schools in
12 meeting the requirements.

13 (2) *Encouragement.* – The Secretary shall encourage
14 schools receiving subgrants to post the nutritional
15 content information, including caloric information,
16 regarding food items served at the school on the
17 school's website.

18 (G) Reports. –

19 (1) Each region receiving grant funds shall submit a
20 report at such time, in such manner, and containing
21 such information as the Secretary may require.

22 (2) Not later than one year after the effective date of
23 this Act and every two years thereafter, the
24 Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on
25 Education, Arts and Culture, and Agriculture and
26 Food of the House of Representatives and Senate
27 that contains:

28 (a) The number of schools receiving
29 subgrants; and

1 (b) A detailed description of the status of the
2 pilot program carried out by each school,
3 including a list of program
4 accomplishments and challenges, and an
5 evaluation of the effectiveness of the
6 program, in each school.
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8 Sec. 4. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed for the initial implementation
9 of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of
10 Education. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its full
11 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a
12 distinct and separate item.
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14 Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
16 provisions hereof.
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18 Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
19 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are
20 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
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22 Sec. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
23 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
24 circulation.

Approved,