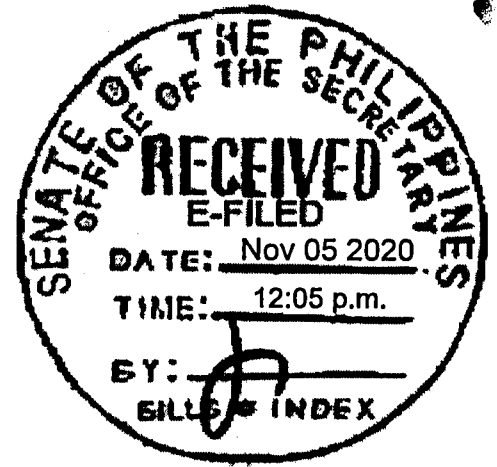


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

S. No. 1898

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

**AN ACT
PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LIVELIHOOD IN 4PS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE
PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS)"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wipe out the gains of decade-long poverty reduction efforts of the government. The damage of the virus continues to ravage the country with more Filipinos jobless and hungry, resulting to lack of access to their basic needs. While pre-pandemic data estimates around six million Filipinos were lifted out of poverty over the past two years¹ with the Government's continued poverty reduction interventions, data from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) reveals that the number of poor Filipinos could surge by about 1.5 million to 5.5 million from the last statistical baseline of 17.7 million in 2018.

Effective Cash Transfer Programs around the world have been seen to be one of the most effective policy responses to support people during a crisis². The study of PIDS confirmed this since the government implemented social protection programs, through direct cash transfers, such as the emergency subsidy program (ESP) and the

¹ Vera, B. (8 August 2020) *5.5M more poor people feared*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1318413/5-5m-more-poor-people-feared>. Accessed last 25 Oct 2020

² Alam, S. (8 July 2020) *COVID-19: HOW CASH TRANSFERS CAN SAVE LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS*. Plan International. Retrieved from: <https://plan-international.org/blog/2020/07/covid-19-cash-transfers-save-lives-and-livelihoods>. Accessed last 26 October 2020

small business wage subsidies (SBWS), the projected increase of poor Filipinos lowered to 1.5 million instead.³

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps is on the frontline of government programs that helped alleviate the economic plight of the Filipino people during the lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a maximum subsidy cap of Php 8,000 a month under the ESP, for two months for its beneficiaries—along with their regular cash grants and rice allowances.⁴ As an institutionalized program with an established system of distributing assistance to the poor Filipino families, the aid of the government to cushion the impact of the pandemic lockdown reached its intended beneficiaries.

With Republic Act No. 11310 or the 4Ps Act, the 4Ps, as a Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) scheme, guarantees financial incentives to poor households in exchange for their adherence to the program's conditionalities related to health and education intervention, which are under the field of the two issues that the country is currently facing brought by the COVID-19's predicaments. With the current health crisis dealing a lot of economic damages to the country and the Filipino people, especially to the poorest, the government is expected and bound to maximize its program related to the same.

Given the spending power reduction of poor households, further assistance from the government is imperative as a safety net in their vulnerability to slide back to further poverty. Studies of the World Bank reveal that access to electricity contributes to poverty reduction and to improvements in the standard of living in several ways.⁵

The primary objective of this bill is to provide electrical subsidy to beneficiaries of the 4Ps by covering 25% of the average household consumption of 250 kilowatt hours which amounts to ₱500 per month. Given the increase electrical

³ Abad M. (10 August 2020) *Pandemic could push 1.5 million Filipinos into poverty – study*. Rappler. Retrieved from: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/coronavirus-pandemic-push-million-filipinos-poverty-pids-study>. Accessed last 26 October 2020

⁴ Abad, M. (3 April 2020). *DSWD begins release of emergency subsidies to 4Ps beneficiaries*. Rappler Newsbreak. Retrieved from <https://rappler.com/nation/dswd-begins-release-emergency-subsidies-4ps-beneficiaries-april-3-2020>

⁵ Komives, K. Foster, V. et. al (2005) *Water, Electricity, and the Poor: Who Benefits from Utility Subsidies?*. The World Bank pg. 2

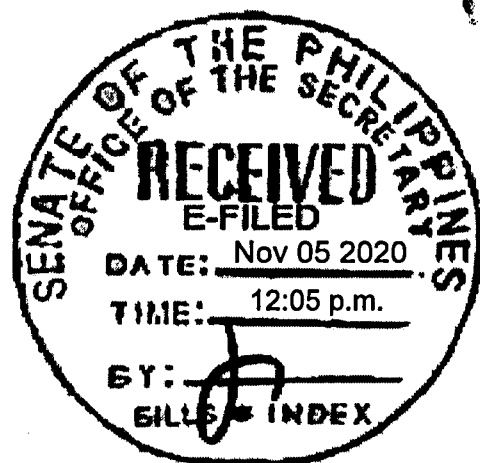
consumption of households by online and modular classes and our continued lockdown, electricity becomes an indispensable resource and cost of poor Filipino families.

Given this augmentation in cash assistance for the beneficiaries, this bill is expected to mitigate further vulnerability risks of poor Filipino households and encourage them to pursue and harness their entrepreneurial skills as a sustainable effort to overcome their present condition with the continued support of the government.

The expeditious consideration and approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


HEILA M. DE LIMA

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SENATE
S. No. 1898

Introduced by SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA

**AN ACT
PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LIVELIHOOD IN 4PS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE
PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS)"**

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 “An Act Promoting
2 Entrepreneurship and Livelihood in 4Ps”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – Section 2 of Republic Act No. 11310 is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 “SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – The State shall
6 promote a just and dynamic social order thereby uplifting its
7 citizens and marginalized sectors from poverty through
8 policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
9 employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved
10 quality of life for all.

11
12 The State recognizes the need to foster social justice as
13 provided for in Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution, as
14 follows:

15
16 (a) xxx;

17

1
2 The health/nutrition grant component aims to promote
3 healthy practices and family development, improve the
4 health nutritional status of pregnant and post-partum
5 mothers, infants and young children, and increase the use
6 of health services by the household-beneficiary. The
7 health grant is a fixed amount and does not depend on the
8 number of members in the household[.];
9

10 **(E) ELECTRIC UTILITY GRANT SHALL NOT BE**
11 **LOWER THAN FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP500)**
12 **PER YEAR PER HOUSEHOLD-BENEFICIARY.**
13 **THE FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE SHALL BE**
14 **TRANSFERED FROM DSWD TO THE NATIONAL**
15 **ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION (NEA)**
16 **AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE DISTRIBUTION**
17 **POWER UTILITIES, PARTICULARLY TO THE**
18 **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES.**

19
20 **THE ELECTRIC UTILITY GRANT COMPONENT**
21 **AIMS TO INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO**
22 **ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY OF HOUSEHOLD-**
23 **BENEFICIARIES, TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING**
24 **CONDITIONS AND TO ENABLE THE**
25 **ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR MICRO AND SMALL**
26 **BUSINESS. THE ELECTRIC UTILITY GRANT IS A**
27 **FIXED AMOUNT AND DOES NOT DEPEND ON**
28 **THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE**
29 **HOUSEHOLD.”**
30

31 Sec. 5. Section 11 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:
32

1 "SEC. 11. Conditions of Entitlement. – All qualified household-
2 beneficiaries shall comply with all of the following conditions as a
3 requirement for continued program eligibility:
4

5 (a) xxx;

6
7 xxx xxx xxx;

8
9 (e) Children five (5) to eighteen (18) years old must
10 attend elementary or secondary classes at least eighty-five
11 (85%) of their time; ~~and~~

12
13 (f) At least one (1) responsible person must attend
14 family development sessions conducted by the DSWD, at
15 least once a month~~[-]; AND~~

16
17 **(G) AT LEAST ONE (1) RESPONSIBLE PERSON**
18 **MUST JOIN AND COMPLETE AT LEAST TWO (2)**
19 **ENTREPRENEURSHIP OR LIVELIHOOD**
20 **SEMINARS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT**
21 **AGENCIES OR THEIR ACCREDITED PRIVATE**
22 **SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**
23 **WITHIN THE SECOND YEAR OF ENROLLMENT OF**
24 **THE HOUSEHOLD-BENEFICIARIES."**

25
26 Sec. 6. Section 13 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:
27

28 "SEC. 13. **ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND Livelihood**
29 **Interventions. – [Qualified—household-beneficiaries] THE**
30 **RESPONSIBLE PERSON WHO SUCCESSFULLY**
31 **COMPLETED THE REQUIRED SKILLS TRAINING**
32 **PROGRAMS SHALL** be given ~~[priority in the availment of the]~~
33 **ACCESS TO THE** modalities and interventions under DSWD's
34 Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) or other appropriate or

1 similar programs offered by other government agencies or
2 accredited private institutions.

3
4 **THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)**
5 **SHALL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE THE EASE**
6 **OF ESTABLISHING A MICRO AND SMALL BUSINESS**
7 **AND THE LINK TO THE TARGET CLIENTELE OF THE**
8 **4PS ENTREPRENEUR.”**
9

10 *Sec 7. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
11 this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent
12 General Appropriations Act.

13 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be found
14 unconstitutional by a court of law, such provision shall be severed from the
15 remainder of this Act, and such action shall not affect the enforceability of the
16 remaining provisions of this Act.

17 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, resolutions,
18 orders or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
19 hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

20 *Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,