

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

SENATE  
S. No. 2473



---

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**"URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992", BY**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING A SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO**  
**WATER AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND INITIAL MONTHLY BILLS TO**  
**QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 9, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State shall undertake a continuing program for urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas.

It is worthy of note that the said constitutional provision asserts that decent housing must be coupled with the availability and accessibility of basic services to the beneficiaries. Thus, decent housing is more than giving a roof and four walls to our homeless *kababayans*. It entails making a livable and comfortable home for them, together with all the basic necessities of a community. This is why Section 21 of Republic Act No. 7279 or the "Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992", outlines the basic services and facilities to be provided in socialized housing and resettlement areas – water, electricity, sewerage and waste disposal, and access to roads and transportation. Indeed, these are the bare minimums that will enable the beneficiaries survive in their new homes and communities.

However, the fact that water flows from faucets and electricity can be tapped

from poles is not sufficient for some of the poorest and underprivileged beneficiaries. Uprooted from their previous settlements, many, if not all of them, will have no work or means of livelihood. Their meager savings and on-hand cash will be mostly devoted to furnishing their empty housing units, or worse, just buying food to avert hunger. It is therefore necessary that government assistance must not end at the point that keys to their houses are turned over to them.

This proposed measure aims to institutionalize a subsidy program that will cover expenses related to water and electric utilities such as pipes and wiring installation, purchase of basic fixtures like faucets, outlets and light bulbs, etc., as well as initial bills payments for at least three (3) months, for beneficiary households who have no employed members, or who have an aggregate monthly income equal to or less than the applicable minimum wage. This subsidy program will be the responsibility of local government units, with the support and assistance of relevant national government agencies, government financial institutions, and government-owned and -controlled corporations.

Water and electricity connection is virtually useless if the beneficiary households do not have the means and facilities to enjoy the same, or if after a few months, they are forced to default on their bills and get disconnected. The subsidy envisioned by this bill will enable our housing beneficiaries to tide over and survive at least for the first few months of their transfer and stay in their new homes.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*

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

SENATE  
S. No. 2473



---

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**"URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992", BY**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING A SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO**  
**WATER AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND INITIAL MONTHLY BILLS TO**  
**QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS**

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

1           Section 1. Section 21 of Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the "Urban  
2 Development and Housing Act of 1992", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3  
4           SEC. 21. Basic Services. – Socialized housing or resettlement  
5 areas shall be provided by the local government unit or the  
6 National Housing Authority in cooperation with the private  
7 developers and concerned agencies with the following basic  
8 services and facilities:

9           (a) Potable water;

10          (b) Power and electricity and an adequate power distribution  
11 system;

12          (c) Sewerage facilities and an efficient and adequate solid  
13 waste disposal system; and

14  
15          (d) Access to primary roads and transportation facilities.  
16

1 The provisions of other basic services and facilities such as  
2 health, education, communications, security, recreation,  
3 relief and welfare shall be planned and shall be given priority  
4 for implementation by the local government unit and  
5 concerned agencies in cooperation with the private sector  
6 and the beneficiaries themselves.

7  
8 The local government unit, in coordination with the  
9 concerned national agencies, shall ensure that these basic  
10 services are provided at the most cost-efficient rates, and  
11 shall set a mechanism to coordinate operationally the  
12 thrusts, objectives and activities of other government  
13 agencies concerned with providing basic services to housing  
14 projects. **AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, THE LOCAL  
15 GOVERNMENT UNIT, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE  
16 RELEVANT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES,  
17 GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND  
18 GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR –CONTROLLED  
19 CORPORATIONS, SHALL PROVIDE SUBSIDIES TO  
20 COVER EXPENSES RELATED TO WATER AND  
21 ELECTRIC UTILITIES SUCH AS PIPES AND WIRING  
22 INSTALLATION, PURCHASE OF BASIC FIXTURES  
23 LIKE FAUCETS, OUTLETS AND LIGHT BULBS, ETC., AS  
24 WELL AS INITIAL BILLS PAYMENT FOR AT LEAST  
25 THREE (3) MONTHS, FOR BENEFICIARY  
26 HOUSEHOLDS WHO HAVE NO EMPLOYED MEMBERS,  
27 OR WHO HAVE AN AGGREGATE MONTHLY INCOME  
28 EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN THE APPLICABLE  
29 MINIMUM WAGE.**

30  
31 Section 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
32 proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with

1 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

2  
3 Section 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act, or the  
4 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid,  
5 the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

6  
7 Section 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from  
8 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
9 circulation.

10  
11 *Approved,*