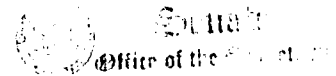


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session }



24 MAR -5 P3:17

SENATE
S. No. 2588

RECEIVED 3rd

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

AN ACT
TO EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC DAY CARE CENTERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 4 (A) AND 4 (B) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as *Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act*, institutionalized the National Feeding Program in DepEd public schools and DSWD day care centers. This law was enacted in recognition of the link between nutrition and learning outcomes, with the end goal of stemming the rising tide of malnutrition among children.

The National Feeding Program currently caters to the following beneficiaries:

1. Undernourished children aged 3-5 years old in the day care centers and the supervisory neighborhood play program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD):
2. Undernourished public school children from kindergarten to grade six (6) who are enrolled in public schools under the Department of Education (DepEd).


In 2022, these programs successfully provided hot meals to 3.19 million students in public schools and 1.99 million children in day care centers.

The program has been popular. Feedback also suggests that there is a clamor to expand the program's coverage. This expansion would be in line with the recommendations of the World Food Program (WFP) ⁱ, which has consistently advocated for the broadening of such programs. The WFP states these nutrition interventions are not only an extensive safety net, but also play a role in responding to conflicts and emergencies.

Expanding the coverage of R.A No. 11037 is also in line with its original intent. This was manifested in the deliberations on Senate Bill No. 1279. ⁱⁱ

This bill thus seeks to expand the coverage of the national feeding program. Under this program, all children aged 3 to 6 in DSWD day care centers, and all school children from kinder to Grade 6, will be provided with hot meals.

In view of the foregoing, swift passage of this bill is eagerly sought.

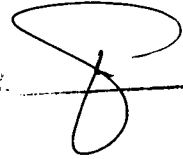


JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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**AN ACT
TO EXPAND THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM IN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC DAY CARE CENTERS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTIONS 4 (A) AND 4 (B) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA
BATANG PILIPINO ACT", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 "Expanded National
2 Child Feeding Program Act".

3 SEC. 2. – Section 4 (a) of Republic Act No. 11037 is hereby amended to read
4 as follows:

5 "Section 4. *National Feeding Program.* – The National Feeding Program,
6 hereinafter referred to as the Program, is hereby established to address undernutrition
7 among Filipino children.

8 The Program shall have the following components and coverage:

9 (a) Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care Children. - The DSWD, in
10 coordination with the LGUs concerned, shall implement a supplemental
11 feeding program for ~~{under-nourished}~~ children ~~{with}~~ **FROM** ages three
12 (3) to five (5) years. The program shall be administered in a day care
13 centers or in any other facility which can be used for such purpose:
14 *Provided,* That the Program shall include the provision of at least one
15 (1) fortified meal for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120)
16 days in a year: *Provided,* further, That in the preparation of fortified

1 meals, the DSWD shall work in collaboration with recognized parents'
2 organizations;"

3
4 X X X

5
6 SEC. 3. — Subsection (b) of the same section is hereby amended to read as follows:

7
8 (b) School-Based Feeding Program. - The DepED shall implement a school-
9 based feeding program for [undernourished] public school children from
10 kindergarten to grade six (6): *Provided*, That the Program shall include
11 the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal to all undernourished
12 public elementary school children for a period of not less than one
13 hundred twenty (120) days in a year;

14
15 X X X

16
17 SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the initial
18 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the Contingent Fund. Thereafter,
19 such sums as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be
20 included in the annual budget of the Department of Education under the General
21 Appropriations Act.

22 SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from
23 the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the DSWD, other shall
24 promulgate their respective rules and regulations for the efficient and effective
25 implementation of this Act.

26 SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
27 unconstitutional, the remainder of law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
28 remain valid and subsisting.

29 Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
30 or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby
31 repealed or modified accordingly.

1 Section 8. *Effectivity.* –This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette;
3 *Approved,*

ⁱ World Food Program (WFP). *State of School Feeding Worldwide*. See also Asian Development Blog (WFP). “We Need to Expand the School Meal Programs That Are Feeding Asia’s Future”

ⁱⁱ Senate of the Philippines. Journal for Session No. 63, 15 February 2017. Seventeenth Congress, First Regular Session.