


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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 FEB 11 AM :28

SENATE

S.B. No. **3059**

RECEIVED BY. 

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Surveys show that hunger incidence among the Philippine poor is intensifying. In 2008, food prices skyrocketed to unprecedented levels, making foodstuffs even more difficult for the poor to purchase. So poor families usually resort to cheap, but usually unhealthy, food just to pacify their children's pangs of hunger. This results in a vast majority of poor children in low-income communities and depressed urban areas who are undernourished and sickly, preventing them from achieving their fullest potentials. While it is not the policy of the State to promote mendicancy among its populace, hunger and malnutrition among the poor are defeating the State's policy of protecting and promoting the right to health of the people and of instilling health consciousness among them."

Feeding the poor is a gigantic problem which the government is increasingly finding difficult to solve. Both the State and its citizens should therefore be grateful to nongovernmental organizations such as The Fortune Center and Children, Incorporated who administer feeding programs to the poor in low-income communities and depressed urban areas. This bill will assist these organizations in their feeding programs without promoting mendicancy among the citizenry. Although the government has several feeding programs, this bill calls for a concerted effort by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and Department of Health. Unlike other feeding programs, this bill will not only mitigate hunger among poor children and pregnant women but will also nourish them with fruits, vegetables and other healthy foodstuffs.

This bill has the added benefit of assisting local farmers in selling their produce without the added cost of storage and of transportation to markets.


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


LOREN LEGARDA

9 FEB 11 AM 128

SENATE

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AN ACT

MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO COORDINATE WITH EACH OTHER AND ASSIST IDENTIFIED COMMUNITY-BASED FEEDING ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES AND DEPRESSED URBAN AREAS TO PROMOTE INCREASED ACCESS TO AND CONSUMPTION OF FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND OTHER HEALTHY FOODS AMONG CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN THEREIN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

Section 1. Title - This Act shall be known as the 'Healthy Food for Poor Children Program'.

Section 2. Concerned Agencies - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Health (DoH), and Department of Education (DepEd) (hereinafter collectively Concerned Agencies) shall jointly implement the provisions of this Act. They shall promote greater consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foodstuffs in low-income communities and depressed urban areas.

Section 3. Role of DA - The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall identify farmers, farmers' organizations from which fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy foodstuffs are to be purchased. As much as practicable, the farmers and farmers' organizations should be from the locality wherein the feeding program is to be administered. The farmers shall be chosen pursuant to a transparent and fair selection system which the Department of Agriculture shall craft and implement.

Section 4. Profit for Farmers - The farmers and farmers' organizations shall be paid the market price of the fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foodstuffs purchased from them by the DA.

Section 5. Role of DOH - The DoH shall identify which fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foodstuffs are appropriate for the feeding programs in a locality and shall recommend these to the DA for purchasing. The DoH shall also train personnel or volunteers of recipients in the healthy preparation, cooking, and other healthy practices in the preparation of food to be administered in the feeding programs.

Section 6. *Role of DSWD* - The DSWD shall identify community-based organizations who are to be the recipients of assistance by the Concerned Agencies. The recipients shall be administering a feeding program in a low-income community or in a depressed urban area. The assistance shall cover providing the organizations with fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods, cooking or preparation of food, manpower, training, and other expenses related to the purpose of this bill.

Section 7. *Role of Recipients* - The recipients must be assisted by the Concerned Agencies in carrying out one or more of the following activities:

- (1) Administering feeding programs of fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy food stuffs, as identified by the Department of Health, to poor children of a low-income community or a depressed urban area.
- (2) Carrying out information campaigns and outreach activities to encourage families and their children to consume fresh fruits and vegetables and warn them of the health risks associated with high-calorie, high-sugar diet.

Section 8. *Separability Clause* - If any part of this Act should hereafter be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such other parts not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 9. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,