

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

SENATE

S. No. 3257

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize and expand the definitions of basic necessities and prime commodities while giving flexibility in their respective coverage to hasten implementation.

With this, it is submitted that the policy declared under Republic Act No. 7581 will be further realized. The apparent complexities in balancing availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at reasonable prices at all times and to ensure fair return of investment to legitimate businesses can be better addressed by the concerned implementing agencies of government given their expertise and institutional existence under well-established statutory standards and criteria.

Moreover, the consumers protection envisioned to be effective and sufficient against hoarding, profiteering and cartels, especially during times of calamity and emergency is enhanced through the inclusion of other goods deemed to be necessities under present time, which can now be expanded administratively without need of legislative enactment.

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



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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SENATE

S. No. 3257

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT  
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581,  
ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY  
STABILIZING THE PRICES OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME  
COMMODITIES AND BY PRESCRIBING MEASURES AGAINST UNDUE  
PRICE INCREASES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND LIKE  
OCCASIONS"

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

SECTION 1. Section 3(1) of Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as  
the "Price Act", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the  
term:

"(1) "Basic necessities" [includes:] ARE GOODS VITAL TO  
THE NEEDS OF CONSUMERS FOR THEIR SUSTENANCE AND  
EXISTENCE IN TIMES OF ANY OF THE CASES PROVIDED  
UNDER SECTIONS 6 OR 7 OF THIS ACT SUCH AS, BUT NOT  
LIMITED TO, rice, corn, ROOT CROPS, bread; fresh, dried [and]  
OR canned fish and other marine products[.]; fresh pork, beef and  
poultry meat; fresh eggs; POTABLE WATER IN CONTAINERS;  
fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables AND FRUITS; [root  
crops;] NOODLES; coffee; sugar; cooking oil; salt; laundry soap [;]  
AND detergents; firewood; charcoal; HOUSEHOLD LIQUEFIED  
PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) AND KEROSENE; candles; [and] drugs  
classified as essential by the Department of Health AND SUCH  
OTHER GOODS AS MAY BE INCLUDED UNDER SECTION 4  
OF THIS ACT;"

SEC.2. Section 3(8) of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to read  
as follows:

"Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. -

"x x x

1           “(8) "Prime commodities" [include] ARE GOODS NOT  
2 CONSIDERED AS BASIC NECESSITIES BUT ARE ESSENTIAL  
3 TO CONSUMERS IN TIMES OF ANY OF THE CASES  
4 PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 7 OF THIS ACT SUCH AS, BUT  
5 NOT LIMITED TO, [fresh fruits;] flour; dried processed [and] OR  
6 canned pork[;], beef and poultry meat; dairy products not falling  
7 under basic necessities[; noodles; onions[;], garlic[;],  
8 vinegar[;],patis[;], soy sauce; toilet soap; fertilizer[;], pesticides[;]  
9 AND herbicides; poultry[;],[swine and cattle] LIVESTOCK AND  
10 FISHERY feeds[;] AND veterinary products [for poultry, swine  
11 and cattle]; paper; school supplies; nipa shingles; sawali; cement;  
12 clinker; GI sheets; hollow blocks; plywood; plyboard;  
13 construction nails; batteries; electrical supplies; light bulbs; steel  
14 wire; [and] all drugs not classified as essential drugs by the  
15 Department of Health AND SUCH OTHER GOODS AS MAY BE  
16 INCLUDED UNDER SECTION 4 OF THIS ACT.”  
17  
18  
19

20           SEC. 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to  
21 read as follows:  
22

23           “Sec. 4. INCLUSION OR Exclusion from the Coverage of  
24 this Act. - Upon petition of the concerned parties OR BY  
25 ACTION OF THE CONCERNED AGENCY OF THE PRICE  
26 COORDINATING COUNCIL MOTU PROPRIO and after public  
27 hearing, the implementing agency, with the approval of the  
28 President, MAY INCLUDE IN THE DEFINITION OF BASIC  
29 NECESSITIES OR PRIME COMMODITIES TYPES AND  
30 BRANDS OF THE GOODS OR may exclude from the coverage of  
31 this Act, types or brands of the goods included in the definition  
32 of basic necessities and prime commodities, which may be  
33 deemed as nonessential goods or luxury goods: Provided, That,  
34 any type or brand so excluded may be reinstated by the  
35 implementing agency during occasions of acute shortage in the  
36 supply of the basic necessity or prime commodity to which the  
37 excluded type or brand used to belong.”  
38

39           SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of  
40 Trade and Industry shall, in consultation with the members of the Price  
41 Coordinating Council and stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules,  
42 regulations and procedures for the effective implementation of this Act within  
43 ninety (90) days from its effectivity. It shall likewise monitor strict compliance of  
44 this Act and review the existing implementing rules and regulations of Republic  
45 Act No. 7581 and revise its provisions as may be appropriate.  
46

47           SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, rules and regulations or part thereof  
48 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
49 amended or modified accordingly.  
50

51           SEC. 6. Separability Clause. - If any part of this Act is declared  
52 unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or provisions hereof not so declared shall  
53 remain valid and subsisting.  
54

1           **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect immediately following its  
2 complete publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general  
3 circulation.

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5           *Approved,*