



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

'14 JUL 15 A10 :47

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: WV

Senate Bill No. 2309
"School Nutrition and Dietary Act of 2014"

Introduced by **SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Problem of malnourishment in the country particularly among children has been prevalent for decades. This is evidenced by the number of impoverished families comprising almost 70% of the population. In the Nutritional Status Report by the Department of Education disclosed that a total of 562,262 students enrolled in the primary level in public schools in 2012 have been considered "severely wasted" or suffering from severe malnutrition.

It has been said that malnutrition among students based on several studies reveals the effect of such condition to the learning capacity of pupils. Poorly nourished students have a short attention span making them focus less on their lessons. There is a high probability that this unfortunate situation is the major cause of habitual absenteeism and dropping out of schools.

The Department of Education in its effort to combat the problem, has been initiating feeding program through its Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) as well as partnerships with private companies and community-based volunteers. However, such endeavors are not enough to cover and continuously sustain to combat the problem of nutrition amongst the poor students.

It is through this situation that lead to the introduction of this proposed measure, which intends to address the problem by mandating the institutionalization of a nourishment program that will provide the supply of full rice meal to all public elementary students in the country.

This bill likewise provides that the meal to be distributed should be fortified with the necessary balance and complete nutritional requirements to ascertain that public school children will be energized for an active mind and body.

If the government is envisioning achieving a healthy and productive citizenry, proper nourishments should start from the young age.

I encourage my colleagues to support the immediate passage of this bill.


VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senator

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



'14 JUL 15 AIO :47

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: JNV

Senate Bill No. **2309**

Introduced by **SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

AN ACT
INSTITUTING A SCHOOL NOURISHMENT AND DIETARY
PROGRAM TO ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

1
2 SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "School
3 Nutrition and Dietary Act of 2014".

4 SECTION 2. Declaration of State Policies. It is the policy of the
5 State to promote, foster, and protect the health, nutrition and well-
6 being of school children in the society. The government shall address
7 the perennial problems of malnutrition as well as common chronic
8 diseases and other diet-related health problems that affect school
9 children by instilling a policy that will ensure that our young students
10 are getting nutritious and healthy meals.

11 SECTION 3. Compulsory School Nourishment Program – Any
12 provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all public elementary
13 schools shall implement a School Nourishment Program, herein
14 referred to as "nourishment program" for students in the elementary
15 level.

16 The nourishment program shall institute a system of providing
17 a rice meal on a daily basis to all public elementary students during
18 school days of the entire school calendar year. A rice meal shall mean

1 serving/s of rice and at least one (1) viand and shall have balanced
2 nutritional contents needed by school children such as protein, fat,
3 saturated fat, carbohydrate, fiber, iron, zinc, calcium, Vitamin A,
4 Vitamin C, folate, sodium and other nutrients as may be determined
5 by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

6 SECTION 4. Trainings on Food Preparations – Food caterers,
7 which may be commissioned in the preparation and serving of meals
8 in schools under this Act, shall undergo the necessary training and
9 strictly follow a healthy nutrition planning in order to comply with the
10 objectives of the nourishment program.

11 SECTION 5. Charity Food Contribution - Private corporations
12 or any other entity engaged in the food manufacturing business may
13 to contribute food donations to the nourishment program under this
14 Act by channeling the same to the Department of Education. The
15 donations shall be deducted from the gross income of the private
16 corporation or any other entity based on the rules governing income
17 tax deductions for charitable contributions as provided for in the
18 National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

19 SECTION 6. Implementing Agency – The Department of
20 Education shall enforce the provisions of this Act, and within ninety
21 (90) days from its effectivity, promulgate the necessary implementing
22 rules and regulations.

23 SECTION 7. Appropriations. –An initial allocation of Twenty
24 Million Pesos (₱20,000,000.00) from the budget of the Department of
25 Education is hereby appropriated during the first year of its
26 implementation. Thereafter, said amount shall be included in the
27 Annual General Appropriations Act.

28 SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – Any provision of law or any
29 other order, decree, issuance, rules and regulations which is/are
30 inconsistent with the provision of this act are hereby repealed,
31 amended or modified accordingly.

1 SECTION 9. Separability clause. In the event that any
2 provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the
3 remaining provisions shall be valid and in full force and effect.

4 SECTION 10. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect after fifteen
5 (15) days from its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a
6 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,