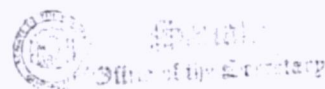


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



SENATE  
S.B. NO. 2125

'18 DEC -31 P3:49

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A LABELING AND NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS  
PROGRAM THAT REQUIRES SCHOOLS TO POST NUTRITIONAL  
CONTENT INFORMATION REGARDING FOOD SERVED IN THEIR  
CANTEENS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being."


Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State shall protect and promote the right to health and instill health consciousness among them."

Nutrition is the intake of food considered in relation to the body's dietary needs. According to the World Health Organization, poor nutrition can lead to reduced immunity, increased susceptibility to disease, impaired physical and mental development, and reduced productivity. Hence it is our objective to ensure that good nutritional choices becomes a part of their everyday life. In addition it can help them reach and maintain a healthy weight, reduce the risk of chronic diseases and promote overall health.

The proposed bill seeks to establish a program that will require schools to post nutritional content information regarding the food served at schools and guide students to make the right choices in selecting good food in order to lead them to a healthy lifestyle.

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

  
MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY  
Senator

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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Third Regular Session )



SENATE  
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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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PROGRAM THAT REQUIRES SCHOOLS TO POST NUTRITIONAL  
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CANTEENS**

*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 “Healthy Food  
2 Choices for Kids Act.”  
3
- 4           Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term –  
5           (A) “Nutritionist-dietitian” refers to any person who meets the  
6           educational and training requirements to become a licensed  
7           nutritionist-dietitian by the Professional Regulation  
8           Commission; and  
9           (B) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Department of  
10          Education.  
11
- 12          Sec. 3. *School Labeling and Nutritional Awareness Pilot Program.* –  
13          (A) In General. – The Secretary shall award grants to not more  
14          than five regions to assist not more than ten schools in each  
15          of such regions in carrying out a pilot program that requires  
16          schools:

1 (1) To post nutritional content information in school  
2 canteens regarding the food items served in the  
3 canteens; and

4 (2) To teach students about how to make health food  
5 selections.

6 (B) Grant Amount. – The Secretary shall ensure that each grant  
7 awarded is of sufficient size and scope to carry out the pilot  
8 program.

9 (C) Duration of Grants. – The Secretary may award grants for  
10 multiple years to regions that meet the grant requirements.

11 (D) Grant Requirement. – To qualify to receive a grant, a region  
12 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in  
13 such manner, and containing such information and assurances  
14 as the Secretary may require, including:

15 (1) An assurance that the region will ensure that each  
16 school awarded a subgrant meets the pilot program  
17 requirements within one year of such subgrant  
18 award;

19 (2) A plan to inform all the schools within the region  
20 about the pilot program and the school application  
21 requirements;

22 (3) An assurance that the region will use not less than  
23 ninety five percent (95%) of the grant funds to  
24 award subgrants to schools;

25 (4) An assurance that the region will award such  
26 subgrants to at least three, but not more than five,  
27 schools in such region that have in effect a program  
28 to provide nutritional content information regarding  
29 food items served in the canteens of such schools to  
30 students attending such schools; and

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(5) An assurance that the region will award such subgrants to at least three (3), but not more than five (5), schools that are located in the rural areas of such region.

(E) Subgrant Requirements. – To qualify to receive a subgrant, a school shall submit an application to a region receiving a grant at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require, including:

- (1) A plan for implementing the pilot program, including:
  - (a) Efforts to ensure that nutritional content information, including caloric information, regarding the food items served in the school’s canteen is posted in a visible location at the point of decision in the canteen and that such information is readable and appropriate for the students who attend the school and the parents or legal guardians of such students;
  - (b) Efforts to develop and implement, or expand a school wellness program or other nutritional awareness program to include an educational program to teach students at the school about making health food selections; and
  - (c) Efforts to consult with a licensed nutritionist-dietitian at least once a year regarding the pilot program requirements described in clauses (a) and (b) and any related nutritional matters;

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- (2) A certification of support for participation in the pilot program signed by the school food manager, school nurse, school principal, and district superintendent (or equivalent positions, as determined by the school); and
- (3) Whether the school plans to post the nutritional content information on the school's website.

(F) Guidance; Encouragement. –

- (1) *Guidance.* – The Secretary shall provide guidance to the regions and schools receiving grants or subgrants to assist such regions and schools in meeting the requirements.
- (2) *Encouragement.* – The Secretary shall encourage schools receiving subgrants to post the nutritional content information, including caloric information, regarding food items served at the school on the school's website.

(G) Reports. –

- (1) Each region receiving grant funds shall submit a report at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.
- (2) Not later than one year after the effective date of this Act and every two years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture, and Agriculture and Food of the House of Representatives and Senate that contains:
  - (a) The number of schools receiving subgrants; and

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(b) A detailed description of the status of the pilot program carried out by each school, including a list of program accomplishments and challenges, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program, in each school.

Sec. 4. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its full implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and separate item.

Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,