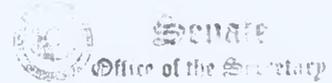


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NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE
S. No. 1206

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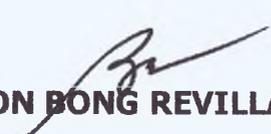
Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

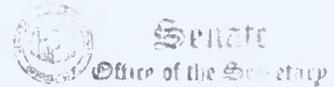
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to institute a program to assist qualified indigent families to have temporary employment that will hopefully assist them in their daily needs. This bill proposes that the Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP) shall provide transitory work to every qualified individual member of an indigent family in rural areas. It is our admission that this temporary work may not go a long way to provide for a family, but this may be a start for a more stable employment in the future. It will also provide momentary relief to pressing needs that need immediate attention for rural families.

It is our aim to address unemployment in our country, but in general, it is our aim to assist indigent rural families to become more productive economically. In view of the foregoing, consideration of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 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 "*Rural Employment*
2 *Assistance Program Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a declared policy of the State to promote a
4 just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the
5 nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social
6 services, promote full employment, a rising standards of living, and an improved
7 quality of life for all. Towards this end, the State shall provide Filipinos with
8 opportunities for just and sufficient means of livelihood. The State shall likewise initiate
9 meaningful employment assistance programs to qualified individuals of poor
10 households in rural areas duly identified by the appropriate national agencies.

11 Sec. 3. *Rural Employment Assistance Program.* – There is hereby created a
12 Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP), which shall provide temporary
13 employment to every qualified individual member of a poor family in rural areas who
14 volunteers to do unskilled labor for a minimum of forty-five (45) days but not more
15 than ninety (90) days in a calendar year wherein the minimum and maximum period
16 of engagement can cover a single activity or multiple activities spread out over the
17 course of a calendar year.

1 Qualified individuals are not subject to the terms and conditions of regular
2 employment and as such, shall not be deemed to have an employer-employee
3 relationship with the DSWD, or any agency or institution who utilizes their services
4 with respect to the Program.

5 Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- 6 (a) *Poor* refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty
7 threshold as defined by the government and/or cannot afford in a sustained
8 manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education,
9 housing and other essential amenities of life, or those who have been
10 identified as poor by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty
11 Reduction (NHTS-PR);
- 12 (b) *Qualified Individual* refers to willing and able Filipino citizens who are at
13 least fifteen (15) years of age. *Provided.* Those individuals between the ages
14 of fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) may only qualify by first obtaining consent
15 from their parent/s and/or legal guardian. *Provided, further,* That individuals
16 who are between the ages of fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) may only qualify
17 provided they can be employed in non-hazardous work environments in
18 accordance with the Labor Code;
- 19 (c) *Rural area* refers to any barangay with at least fifty percent (50%) land
20 devoted to agriculture, timberland, forest and/or pasture land as
21 determined by the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the concerned local
22 government unit (LGU); and
- 23 (d) *Unskilled labor* refers to a segment of the workforce associated with a
24 limited skill set or a minimal economic value for the work performed. It is
25 generally characterized by having lower levels of educational attainment,
26 such as a high school diploma, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or lack
27 thereof, and which typically results in getting lower wages.

28 Sec. 5. *Local Community Participation.* – The DSWD shall take the lead in the
29 overall implementation of the REAP. However, the corresponding LGUs and in
30 particular, the local communities and people’s organizations (Pos) representing its
31 most vulnerable sectors such as women, youth, the elderly and the like shall be given
32 proper recognition and due consideration by the DSWD as the primary stakeholders

1 of each project to be initiated. Towards this end, the LGUs and especially the local
2 communities shall be capacitated by the DSWD to be able to fully participate in any
3 and all phases of the project development cycle, which include, but are not limited to,
4 situational analysis and needs assessment, project identification, project
5 implementation and management, and project monitoring and evaluation.

6 *Sec. 6. Qualifications for Availment of Employment Assistance.* – The Local
7 Social Welfare and Development Officers (LSWDOs), in close coordination with the
8 LGUs and other concerned government agencies, as well as concerned members of
9 the identified rural communities themselves, may conduct a preliminary joint
10 assessment of all poor individuals and families in rural areas who signify interest in
11 undertaking work as unskilled labor to determine eligibility in availing of the
12 employment assistance program. The assessment shall also take into consideration
13 the inherent knowledge, skills, capacities, and capabilities of potential qualified
14 participants so as to properly determine the type and nature of projects that are most
15 suited to them and their respective communities. These preliminary joint assessments
16 may be subject to validation and approval by the DSWD.

17 The DSWD shall facilitate basic knowledge and skills orientation and capacity-
18 building training and seminars as deemed necessary towards project development for
19 qualified participants. The concerned LGUs shall be responsible for providing for the
20 loaning out of any tool and equipment necessary for project development to the
21 qualified individuals.

22 *Sec. 7. Types of Works and Activities under the Program.* – Employment
23 activities for this purpose shall be designed to mobilize eligible individuals, families
24 and communities to finish a project within a given time period. These projects may
25 include, but are not limited to the following:

- 26 (a) Development, rebuilding/rehabilitation of agri-based livelihood assets
27 damaged, destroyed or lost due to natural disasters, such as desilting of
28 irrigation canals, development of paddy dikes, and rehabilitation of water
29 impounding dams;
- 30 (b) Development or rehabilitation of common service facilities, which are being
31 shared and used by poor families as production or consolidation centers like
32 post-harvest facilities, and public markets;

1 (c) Development or rehabilitation of physical assets to open up access to areas
2 necessary to transport rural products, such as construction of farms to
3 market roads and bridges; and

4 (d) Protection of natural and productive assets through mitigation and disaster
5 risk reduction measures, such as mangrove planting and rehabilitation, tree
6 planting and similar activities.

7 Additionally, the DSWD shall provide an updated list of projects that may be
8 undertaken as well as the projects not covered under this law. This list shall be readily
9 made available to potentially qualified individuals who have expressed their desire to
10 participate in the REAP.

11 *Sec. 8. Rate of Assistance.* – Every person qualified under this Program shall
12 be entitled to receive compensation for each day of work at the rate of not less than
13 seventy-five percent (75%) of the prevailing minimum wage set by the concerned
14 Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB). LGUs concerned may also
15 provide for additional allowances to the beneficiaries in order to cover for other
16 expenses such as transportation and food.

17 *Sec. 9. Micro-Insurance Benefits.* – Qualified individuals are granted the option
18 to access micro-insurance as a form of social security in the event of accidental death
19 or dismemberment, medical reimbursement, and bereavement assistance at a
20 socialized cost. Towards this end, the DSWD shall provide liaison services necessary
21 to enable qualified individuals access to these social services. LGUs concerned may
22 also provide additional allowance to participants to cover insurance costs.

23 *Sec. 10. Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development
24 shall include in the DSWD's programs the implementation of this Act. The initial
25 funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the
26 DSWD. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be
27 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

28 In addition, the DSWD may accept donations, contributions or grants from
29 foreign and local persons, institutions and governments, among others, for the
30 implementation of the Program.

31 *Sec. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from
32 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD shall, in consultation with the

1 Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, promulgate and issue
2 the necessary guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act.

3 *Sec. 24. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
5 remain valid and subsisting.

6 *Sec. 25. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
7 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or
8 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
9 accordingly.

10 *Sec. 26. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,