


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session

6 JUN -7 1997

RECEIVED BY: 

**SENATE**

Senate Bill No. 2275

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**INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Those who have less in life should have more in law. But Presidential Decree No. 442, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended, which prescribes the minimum wage for househelpers has failed to provide realistic minimum wage levels for domestic helpers who occupy the lowest rung and are the most exploited among our workforce. Specifically, Article 143 thereof sets the amount of Eight Hundred Pesos (P800.00) a month as minimum wage for househelpers in Manila, Quezon, Pasay, and Caloocan cities and municipalities of Makati, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Malabon, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Pasig, Marikina, Valenzuela, Taguig and Pateros in Metro Manila and in highly urbanized cities; Six Hundred Fifty Pesos (P650.00) a month for those in other chartered cities and first-class municipalities; and Five Hundred Fifty Pesos (P550.00) a month for those in other municipalities.

These minimum wages may have been realistic on August 19, 1993 when Republic Act No. 7655 was issued to amend P.D. No. 442. But after thirteen (13) long years, such amounts which are still specified in our statutes are not only unrealistic, they are downright embarrassing and scandalous.

This situation becomes even more lamentable in view of a constitutionally mandated policy for the State to affirm labor as a primary social economic force, to protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.


Even Article 1700 of the New Civil Code recognizes the relations between capital and labor as something that are not merely contractual but are impressed

with public interest. Hence, labor contracts must yield to the common good. Therefore, such contracts are subject to the special laws on labor unions, collective bargaining, strikes and lockouts, closed shops, wages, working conditions, hours of labor and similar subjects.

This bill then seeks to increase the minimum wage of househelpers by again, amending Article 143 of P.D. No. 442. It is hereby proposed that the minimum wage of househelpers in Manila, Quezon, Pasay, and Caloocan cities and municipalities of Makati, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Malabon, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Pasig, Marikina, Valenzuela, Taguig and Pateros in Metro Manila and in highly urbanized cities ration of health and medical services in the countryside be increased from Eight Hundred Pesos (P800.00) to One Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P1,200.00) a month; from Six Hundred Fifty Pesos (P650.00) to Nine Hundred Fifty Pesos (P950.00) a month for those in other chartered cities and first class municipalities; and from Five Hundred Fifty Pesos (P550.00) to Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (P750.00) a month for those in other municipalities.

It is hoped that such increase would stem the tide of migration of househelpers from rural areas to urban areas; raise the minimum wages to realistic levels; and at the same time give dignity to domestic household help.

For obvious reasons, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly prayed for.



**MANNY VILLAR**

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**AN ACT  
INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE OF HOUSEHELPERS AMENDING FOR  
THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 143 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED 442,  
AS AMENDED**

*Be<sup>it</sup> enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the  
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** Subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3), Article 143 of Presidential  
Decree No. 442 are hereby amended as follows:

**"ART. 143. Minimum Wage.** – (a) Househelpers shall be paid the  
following minimum wage rates:

(1) [Eight hundred pesos (P800.00)] **ONE THOUSAND TWO  
HUNDRED PESOS (P1,200.00)** a month for househelpers in  
Manila, Quezon, Pasay and Caloocan cities and municipalities of  
Makati, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Malabon,  
Parañaque, Las Piñas, Pasig, Marikina, Valenzuela, Taguig and  
Pateros in Metro Manila and in highly urbanized cities;

(2) [Six hundred fifty pesos (P650.00)] **NINE HUNDRED FIFTY  
PESOS (P950.00)** a month for those in other chartered cities and  
first class municipalities; and

(3) [Five hundred fifty pesos (P550.00)] SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS (P750.00) a month for those in other municipalities;

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

Approved,