THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

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SENATE

s. No. 2403

## INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

There are now close to 3.67 million malnourished children nationwide. This is about one-fourth of all school children. If nothing is done with the serious malnutrition level among our child population, this figure will worsen.

A nutrition survey conducted by the Department of Education (DepEd) revealed that 5 out of 10 Filipino children are suffering from varying degrees of malnutrition.

This bill seeks to provide a feeding program similar to the nutribun feeding program during the 70-80's to augment the dietary needs primarily of school children, and secondarily pregnant women, nursing mothers and elderly. As an incentive to the supporters of the program, they will be given a tax credit equivalent to 100% of their contribution.

This bill will realize our hope for a better, healthier, and more productive population who will ultimately contribute to the development of our rural communities.

In view of the above, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

MANNY VIL

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#### AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NUTRIENT SUPPLEMENTING PROGRAM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title of the Act* – This Act shall be known as the NUTRIPACK ACT OF 2006.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* - The State shall ensure the health and welfare of the vulnerable children population and shall institute effective mechanisms to carry out this policy. The State shall ensure the supply of regular food supplement for children in order to create a future generation of physically and mentally developed youth.

SECTION 3. *Nutripack* – Food supplement shall be distributed to school children, nursing mothers, pregnant women and elderly. The Nutripack shall contain food items that are commensurate with the nutritional requirements of the identified sectors.

SECTION 4. *Priority Coverage* – Priority shall be given to children who are in the barangay day care centers, pre-schools and schools located in the rural areas of the country and where prevalence of malnutrition is high. Second priorities are nursing mothers, pregnant women and elderly persons who also reside in rural communities.

SECTION 5. Nutripack Fund - For the initial implementation of this Act, the amount of Four Hundred Million Pesos (P400,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated. Said

amount of Four Hundred Million Pesos (P400,000,000.00) shall be funded from the net income of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Thereafter, the National Government shall appropriate annually and include in the General Appropriations Act the amount necessary to carry out this Act.

SECTION 6. Nutripack Feeding Incentives – Any private entity or benefactor, local or foreign, who supports the Nutripack Feeding Program in whatever form, shall be given due tax credit equivalent to 100% of the value of their contribution to the program.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity* -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least 2 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,