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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 669

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

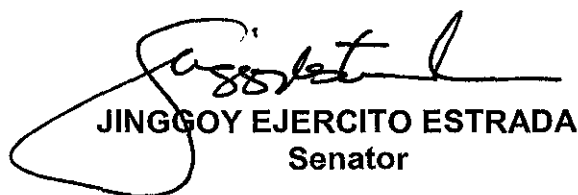
This bill seeks to include locally manufactured instant noodles in the definition of "basic necessities" for the purpose of providing them the protection accorded under the Price Act against undue price increases during calamity, emergency, widespread illegal price manipulation and other similar situations.

Instant noodles was first introduced in Japan in the 1950s and is now being produced in over 80 countries worldwide. In the Philippines, as in neighboring countries, the demand for noodles continues to be on the rise. Based on available data, the consumption of instant noodles in the Philippines has risen steadily since 1995, reaching in the year 2000 a per capita annual consumption of 0.506 kgs. (per person per annum) and total household expenditure of P6 billion, with a sustained growth rate estimated at 16% per annum. Instant noodles has indeed become the new staple of many poor Filipinos. This increase in popularity of instant noodles can be due to the fact that it is cheaper and easier to prepare than rice.

The prevalent public consumption of instant noodles has placed it in the ranks of basic necessities such as rice, corn, bread, fish, pork, bee, poultry, etc. During relief operations in times of calamities and emergencies, instant noodles is one of the basic goods distributed. Undeniably, instant noodles plays an important role in the lives of Filipinos.

At present, however, instant noodles is not accorded the protection which other goods classified as "basic necessities" enjoy. While noodles is considered as prime commodity under the Price Act, it is not covered by the automatic price control provision of the said law which applied only to prices of basic necessities. With the significant reliance of the Filipino people on instant noodles for their day-to-day subsistence, it is imperative that its price be subject to automatic freezing in areas affected by calamities, emergencies, etc., and be subject to a ceiling when its prevailing price is excessive or unreasonable.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 669

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AN ACT
TREATING LOCALLY MANUFACTURED INSTANT NOODLES AS BASIC
NECESSITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 3 SUBPARAGRAPH
(1) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PRICE
ACT."

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

SECTION 1 . Section 3 (1) of Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as
the "price Act," is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the term:

"(1) "Basic necessities" includes: rice; corn; bread; fresh, dried and
canned fish and other marine products, fresh pork, beef and poultry meal;
fresh eggs; fresh and processed milk; LOCALLY MANUFACTURED
INSTANT NOODLES; fresh vegetables; root crops; coffee; sugar; cooking
oil; salt; laundry soap; detergents; firewood; charcoal; candles; and drugs
classified as essential by the Department of Health;

"X X X XXX X X X."

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees and orders or parts thereof
inconsistent herewith, are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Approved,