


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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 JUL 13 19:20

SENATE

S. B. No. 1347

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Surveys show that hunger incidence among the Philippine poor is rapidly increasing. In 2008, food prices skyrocketed to unprecedented levels, making foodstuffs even more difficult for the poor to purchase. This incidence has constrained poor families to resort to cheap, but usually unhealthy food in order to pacify their children's pangs of hunger. This results in a vast majority of poor children in low-income communities and depressed urban areas who are undernourished and sickly, preventing them from achieving their fullest potentials. While it is not the policy of the State to promote mendicancy among its populace, hunger and malnutrition among the poor are defeating the State's policy of protecting and promoting the right to health of the people and instilling health consciousness among them."

Feeding the poor is a gigantic problem which the government is finding difficult to solve. Both the State and its citizens should therefore be grateful to nongovernmental organizations such as The Fortune Center and Children, Incorporated whose members administer feeding programs to the poor in low-income communities and depressed urban areas. This bill will assist these organizations in their feeding programs without promoting mendicancy among the citizenry. Although the government has several feeding programs, this bill calls for a concerted effort by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and Department of Health. Unlike other feeding programs, this bill will not only mitigate hunger among poor children and pregnant women but will ensure provision of healthy food in the form of fruits, vegetables and other healthy foodstuffs.

This bill has the added benefit of assisting local farmers in selling their produce without the added cost of storage and of transportation to markets.

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


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 13 A9:20

SENATE

S. B. No. 1347 RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

AN ACT

MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO COORDINATE WITH EACH OTHER AND ASSIST IDENTIFIED COMMUNITY-BASED FEEDING ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES AND DEPRESSED URBAN AREAS TO PROMOTE INCREASED ACCESS TO AND CONSUMPTION OF FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND OTHER HEALTHY FOODS AMONG CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN THEREIN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

1 **Section 1. Title** - This Act shall be known as the "Healthy Food for Poor
2 **Children Program."**

3

4 **Section 2. Concerned Agencies.** - The Department of Social Welfare and
5 Development (DSWD), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Health
6 (DoH), and Department of Education (DepEd) (hereinafter collectively known as the
7 Concerned Agencies) shall jointly implement the provisions of this Act. They shall
8 promote greater consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy
9 foodstuffs in low-income communities and depressed urban areas.

10

11 **Section 3. Role of Department of Agriculture.** - The Department of
12 Agriculture (DA) shall identify farmers, farmers' organizations or farmer's
13 cooperatives from which good quality fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy
14 foodstuffs are to be purchased at the least cost. As much as practicable, the farmers
15 and farmers' organizations should be from the locality wherein the feeding program
16 is to be administered. The farmers shall be chosen pursuant to a transparent and fair
17 selection system, which the Department of Agriculture shall design, and implement.

18

1 **Section 4. Profit for Farmers.** - Farmers and farmers' organizations shall be
2 paid the market price of the fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foodstuffs
3 purchased from them by the DA.

4
5 **Section 5. Role of DOH.** - The DoH shall identify which fruits, vegetables,
6 and other healthy foodstuffs are appropriate for the feeding programs in the
7 specified locality and shall recommend these to the DA for purchasing. The DoH
8 shall also get personnel or volunteers from the recipient groups themselves and train
9 them the proper and healthy preparation, cooking, and other healthy practices in
10 relation to the feeding programs.

11
12 **Section 6. Role of DSWD.** - The DSWD shall identify community-based
13 organizations who are to be the recipients of the assistance given by the Concerned
14 Agencies. The recipients shall be administering a feeding program in a low-income
15 community or in a depressed urban area. The assistance shall cover providing the
16 organizations with fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods, cooking or
17 preparation of food, manpower, training, and other expenses related to the purpose
18 of this bill.

19
20 **Section 7. Role of Recipients.** - The recipients must be assisted by the
21 Concerned Agencies in carrying out one or more of the following activities:

22
23 (1) Administering feeding programs providing fresh fruits, vegetables and
24 other healthy foodstuffs, as identified by the Department of Health, to
25 poor children of a low-income community or a depressed urban area.

26
27 (2) Carrying out information campaigns and outreach activities to
28 encourage families and their children to consume fresh fruits and
29 vegetables and warn them of the health risks associated with high-
30 calorie, high-sugar diet.

31
32 **Section 8. Separability Clause.** - If any part of this Act should hereafter be
33 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such other parts hereof not otherwise affected
34 thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

35

1 **Section 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3

4 Approved,