

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1758

Introduced by: **REP. PROSPERO A. PICHAY JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7581, also known as the "Price Act", was enacted to protect consumers from unscrupulous traders and sellers who jack up prices of basic necessities during calamities, disasters and other like situations. Specifically, the said law stabilizes the prices of basic necessities during emergencies.

Unfortunately, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is not included under the list of commodities considered as basic necessities under Section 3 of R. A. 7581. This bill seeks to amend the said provision of the Price Act by including LPG in the enumeration. LPG is widely used, not only in the cities but in the provinces as well. Even those in the marginalized sectors rely on LPG as a basic and most commonly marketed source of fuel, not only of their daily use but also for their small-scale enterprises. LPG is actually a basic need in every household and a regular item in the priority list of expenses of every Filipino family.

A minimum wage worker today is paid P250.00 a day, less the standard deductions. In the face of the high cost of living, said amount isn't even enough. During ordinary conditions, the government is already hard put to protect the majority of our people against the onslaught of rising prices of commodities. In times of crises, they need greater protection. If the system cannot provide them security during normal conditions, it should at least provide some ways to ease the burden in times when the government's help is needed the most.

One way, as proposed by the author, is to include the LPG in the list of basic commodities. As such, the price of this actual necessity is automatically frozen at prevailing prices during emergency situations. Thus, immediate and direct benefit will redound to our people, considerably easing their economic plight during times of distress.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this proposed measure is urgently requested.

PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.



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Introduced by REP. PROSPERO A. PICHAY JR.

AN ACT
INCLUDING LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) IN THE LIST OF BASIC
NECESSITIES AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRICE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. Section 3, paragraph (1) of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 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 meat; fresh eggs; fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables; root crops; coffee; sugar; cooking oil; salt; laundry soap; detergents; firewood; charcoal; LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG); candles; and drugs classified as essential by the Department of Health.”

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,