

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1759



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is endowed with abundant natural resources, which, if properly utilized, are sufficient to meet the growing needs of our people. However, our country is also one of those frequently visited by natural calamities and disasters. We recall such incidents as the 1990 killer earthquake that devastated the lives and property in Northern Luzon and the tragedy that was Ormoc City in 1991 – two of the more infamous ones in the long list of disasters whose memories are too painful to even be spoken of again.

It is utterly appalling that some of our *kababayans* still have the gall to take advantage of the misfortunes of our people. Despite or because of the adversities, these unscrupulous marauders hoard goods in order to rake in hefty profits at the expense of the suffering majority.

Cognizant of this situation, the State instituted steps to protect the consumers. Foremost of which is the enactment of Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as the Price Act. This law provides for measures against undue increases in prices of basic necessities and prime commodities during emergency situations.

Specifically, Section 6 of R. A. No. 7581 provides that “(u)nless otherwise declared by the President, prices of basic necessities in an area shall automatically be frozen at their prevailing prices or placed under automatic price control whenever” among others “(t)hat area is proclaimed or declared a disaster area or under a state of calamity.”

In practice, however, the beneficent intent of said provision is hardly concretized. Experience tells us that, save for calamities that are heavily reported by the media, a presidential proclamation that an area is in a state of calamity is seldom forthcoming. And when it does, the calamity victims have already suffered much more than they could have, had the proclamation been promptly issued. Yet still we ask, “What if said disaster was not given much attention because of more ‘juicy and newsworthy’ events?”

This bill intends to answer the said concerns by decreeing as sufficient basis for automatic price control a declaration of the *sanggunian* in a locality ravaged by a disaster, thereby amending section 6, paragraph (1) of R. A. No. 7581. The members of the *sanggunian*, being part of the affected communities themselves, directly experience the miseries of their constituency. More than anyone else, they are in a better position to assess the situation obtaining in their areas.

Hence approval of this bill is fervently prayed for.

PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.



1734 080301 PICHAY 3 ATC

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1759

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

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 6, PARAGRAPH (1) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE PRICE ACT

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

SECTION 1. Section 6, paragraph (1) of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby
amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. *Automatic Price Control.* – Unless otherwise declared by the
President, prices of basic necessities in an area shall automatically be
frozen at their prevailing prices or placed under automatic price control
whenever:

(1) That area is proclaimed or declared a disaster area or under a state of
calamity: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONTRARY
DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENT, THE DECLARATION OR
PROCLAMATION BY THE SANGGUNIAN CONCERNED SHALL BE
SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE AUTOMATIC PRICE
CONTROL AND SHALL HAVE THE SAME EFFECT AS THAT OF A
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION OR DECLARATION;

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

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,