

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

15<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2262

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Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo  
Lone District of Pasig City

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This proposed bill seeks to provide for a more comprehensive coverage of the term "basic necessities" under the Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as "The Price Act" in order to protect Filipino consumers from variable food price spikes in keeping with the constitutional guarantee of economic equality and general welfare.

By its very nature, water is one of the most essential needs of life. As we face the fast changing and erratic economic condition, security and accessibility to potable water at acceptable prices must be ensured. There is a need to be proactive and adapt new measures to cope with the foreseen and possible significant imbalance between the supply and demand for drinking water.

Under Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7581, the prices of basic necessities shall automatically be frozen at their prevailing prices or placed under automatic price control under certain circumstances such as during a state of calamity and during emergencies. Further, Section 7 of the same Act provides that a price ceiling may be imposed on any basic necessity or prime commodity during similar situations.

Through the amendment proposed in this Bill, appropriate measures to stabilize the price of drinking and bottled water would be enforced, implemented and protected by the Price Act and hence, strengthen consumer security especially during severe shortages, calamities and economic crisis.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. ROMAN T. ROMULO

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**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS "THE PRICE ACT", TO INCLUDE BOTTLED DRINKING WATER  
AS ONE OF THE BASIC NECCESITIES**

*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 meat; fresh eggs; fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables; root crops; bottled drinking water, coffee; sugar; cooking oil; salt; laundry soap; detergents; firewood; charcoal; candles; and drugs classified as essential by the Department of Health.

**Section 2.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.