

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 2694

Introduced by Representative Catalina "Baby" G. Leonen-Pizarro

Explanatory Note

Congress in December 1994 enacted into Law Republic Act 7835 known as the "Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Financing Act of 1994."

Paragraph (e) of Section 4 created the Local Housing Program to implement cost-recoverable socialized housing projects in select urban and urbanizable areas in all of two hundred nineteen (219) congressional districts with an initial funding of Three Billion Pesos (P3,000,000,000.00). To date, not even close to fifty per cent (50%) of its implementation has been complied with estimated unused funds of Two Billion Pesos (P 2,000,000,000.00), more or less.

The afore-cited provision of R.A. 7835 ensures to subsidize the implementation of cost-recoverable socialized housing project for equitable distribution in all congressional districts.

Inasmuch as the New Government focuses on poverty alleviation by providing cash subsidies thru the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in billions of pesos, it is the opportune time to provide for a Free Housing Program likewise to our citizenry with preference to those marginalized and under privileged belonging to the poorest of the poor.

Free Housing complements cash subsidies and easy access to public elementary and secondary educations and perhaps a free college degree scheme in the near future.

We feed our citizenry, properly educate and train them and finally provide them with free shelters.

Republic Act 7835 when passed only covered two hundred nineteen (219) districts without any party-list representation, thus, the existing Local Housing program does not include new congressional districts created since its passage (R.A. 7835), more so, any party-list representation.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to afford our marginalized and underprivileged but deserving citizenry non-recoverable housing projects program and expand the coverage of such by including newly created districts and elected party-lists' constituencies as beneficiaries amending R.A. 7835 to conform not only with the present priority programs of the Pnoy government but as well as to afford our countrymen to realize their long-cherished dreams of owning the roofs they are living in.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.



CATALINA "BABY" G. LEONEN-PIZARRO

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2694

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Representative Catalina "Baby" G. Leonen-Pizarro

AN ACT

TO IMPLEMENT FREE HOUSING PROJECTS IN SELECT URBAN AND URBANIZABLE AREAS UNDER THE LOCAL HOUSING PROGRAM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PARAGRAPH (e) SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7835, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SHELTER FINANCING ACT OF 1994

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

Sec. 1. Paragraph (e), Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7835 is hereby amended and to read as follows:

"SECTION 4.

(e) Local housing – To ensure the equitable distribution of housing benefits across the country, the NHA is hereby tasked to implement free housing projects in selected urban and urbanizable areas as maybe identified by all sitting members of the House of Representatives for their respective constituencies. Criteria for the selection of sites shall be formulated by the HUDCC and NHA pursuant to Republic Act No. 7279. Provided, that any awardee / grantee shall be prohibited from alienating such award or grant by any mode of transferring title including thru encumbrances or mortgages except by way of succession within ten (10) years from the date of award / grant. Provided further, that the award or grant shall be exempt from levy and or execution as a result of any administrative or judicial process. Provided finally, that existing cost-recoverable socialized housing project loans under the Local Housing Program shall be condoned."

Sec. 2. FUNDING – Funds for this purpose shall be taken from the unexpended appropriations of the Local Housing Program pursuant to paragraph (e) of Section 9 of R.A. 7835 to be divided equally among the constituencies afore-mentioned with emphasis that the NHA shall give top priority to such funding vis-a-vis the other housing programs as mandated.

Sec. 3. REPEAL – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or any part thereof, inconsistent with this act are hereby correspondingly modified or repealed.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVITY – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the official gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.