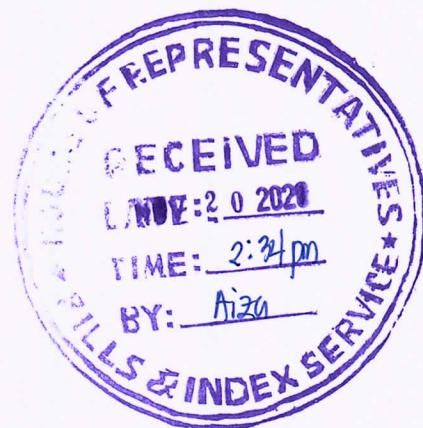


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8054



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Lifeline rate is a socialized pricing mechanism introduced under the Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) for the benefit of marginalized or low-income end-users who cannot afford to pay at full cost and whose consumption fall below the threshold level determined by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Originally, EPIRA only allowed for 10 years of implementation of the lifeline rate. This was amended by Republic Act No. 10150, which extended the collection of lifeline rate for another ten (10) years. Truly, the lifeline rate has greatly improved access of low-income communities to this basic utility, consequently improving their quality of life.

As the said extension is about to end in 2021, this proposed measure seeks to extend the lifeline rate for another twenty (20) years so that low-income households may continue to enjoy access to power at a discounted rate.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

Republic of the Philippines
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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8054

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
EXTENDING AND ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIFELINE RATE,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 73 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001,
AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10150

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

SECTION 1. Extension of Lifeline Rate. – Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, as amended by Republic Act No. 10150, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 73. Lifeline Rate. - A socialized pricing mechanism called a lifeline rate for [the] **QUALIFIED** marginalized end-users shall be set by the ERC which shall be exempted from the cross subsidy phase-out under this Act for a period of [twenty (20)] **THIRTY (30)** years, unless otherwise extended by law. The level of consumption and rate shall be determined by the ERC after due notice and hearing: **PROVIDED, THAT THE ERC SHALL UTILIZE DATA FROM THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA) IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE LEVEL OF CONSUMPTION.**

QUALIFIED MARGINALIZED END-USERS SHALL REFER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLD-BENEFICIARIES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM, AS REGULARLY SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) TO THE DOE, THE ERC, AND THE DISTRIBUTION UTILITY; OR

(B) MARGINALIZED END-USERS WHO HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED AS SUCH BY THEIR DISTRIBUTION UTILITY BASED ON A CRITERIA DETERMINED BY ERC: PROVIDED, THAT THE CRITERIA SHALL TAKE

INTO ACCOUNT THE POVERTY THRESHOLD SET BY THE PSA, AND SHALL CONTAIN AN EXCLUSIVE LIST OF REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRIBUTION UTILITY: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE EXCLUSIVE LIST OF REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE BURDENSOME FOR THE APPLICANT: PROVIDED FINALLY, THAT THE DISTRIBUTION UTILITY SHALL ACT ON THE APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION AS MARGINALIZED END-USER WITHIN TWO (2) WORKING DAYS FROM SUBMISSION OF COMPLETE DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS.

THE ERC SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALIFIED MARGINALIZED END-USERS WHOSE METERS ARE NOT REGISTERED IN THEIR NAME.

THE ERC SHALL SUBMIT TO THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL ENERGY COMMISSION AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIFELINE RATE, AND A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION EVERY THREE (3) YEARS TO INCLUDE A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS AS WELL AS MODES OF VALIDATION AND PREVENTION OF LEAKAGES."

SECTION 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The ERC, together with the DOE and DSWD, in consultation with the PSA and other public and private stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) calendar days from its effectivity.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act or any part thereof shall be held unconstitutional and invalid, the other parts or provisions of this Act, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,