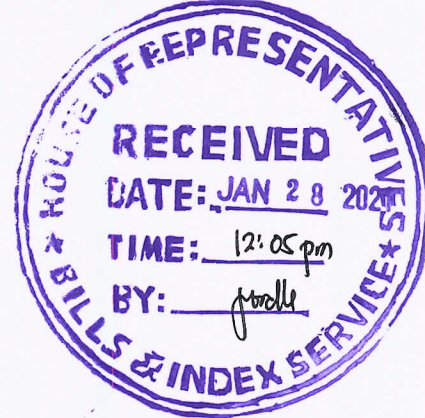


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8567



Introduced by Hon. Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo

**AN ACT CREATING A LENDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ASPIRING
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Women’s Economic empowerment is an integral factor in moving to reduce gender gaps to fully foster a gender-sensitive society. This acknowledges the importance of women's inclusion in all facets of a country's growth by promoting their participation in the development of the economy.

The cultivation of their potentials will encourage active involvement in nation building, and consequently stimulate a more supportive environment among families, communities, and other institutions to create a bigger space for women to exercise their rights and freedoms. Further, providing women, specifically from low-income families, the ability to establish a small enterprise will give them better access to social protection that is usually obtained through employment, such as pension and health cards, amongst others.¹

In keeping with the mandate of the Magna Carta for Women, this bill seeks to advance the economic rights of women and further push the gender mainstreaming initiatives of the government through a lending assistance program specifically for women in our communities.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTHONY PETER “ONYX” D. CRISOLOGO
Representative
First District of Quezon City

¹ *Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment*, UN Women, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>, (accessed January 24, 2021).

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

SECTION 1. Short Title- This Act shall be known as the “Women Economic Support Act of 2021.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy- It is hereby declared a policy of the state to recognize the role of women in the overall growth of the country through the provision of financial support to encourage their active participation in the advancement of the country’s economy.

SECTION 3. Coverage- All women from low-income families with a cumulative monthly family income of ₱ 10,000-16,000 shall be covered by this Act.

SECTION 4. Lending Assistance Program- All provinces, cities, and municipalities, through their Gender and Development Offices, shall create a lending assistance program with zero interest to assist aspiring women entrepreneurs from low-income families.

The amount of the loan shall depend on the assessment and recommendation of the assigned Loan Officer.

SECTION 5. Capacity Development Trainings- The lending program shall also include capacity development trainings for their beneficiaries to ensure the sustainability of their chosen enterprise and the proper usage of funds granted to them.

SECTION 6. Monitoring- Strict monitoring of the actual use of funds shall be done to ensure that the assistance is being used in the procurement of business materials and other services related to the declared type of business of the beneficiary.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations- All league of provinces, cities, and municipalities, in close coordination with the Philippine Commission on Women, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry, shall promulgate the rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause - If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected shall remain valid.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,