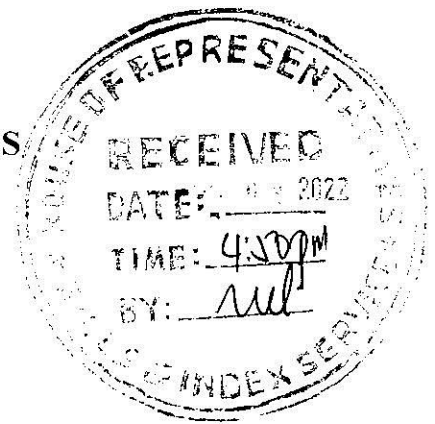




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 3158

Introduced by **HON. JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE “Jaye” R. LACSON - NOEL**
HON. FLORENCIO GABRIEL G. NOEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A study conducted by the National Nutrition Council (NCC) found out that the Philippines loses Two Hundred and Twenty Billion (220,000,000,000) Pesos annually or about 1.5% of our GDP due to malnutrition. Stunting alone contributes to more than 50% of the economic costs of undernutrition. Aside from this, the same study shows that the country is far from reaching global nutritional targets.

On the other hand, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported in April 2019 that the unemployment rate in the country is estimated at 5.1%. This demonstrates the inability of workers to obtain work or the lack of opportunity thereof. The PSA also reported that there is an estimated 13.5% of underemployment rate in the country.

In depressed communities, the population increases at a rapid phase. This means that in order to address the nutritional, livelihood and employment predicaments of our underprivileged, unemployed and underemployed in a year, working doubly hard is required.

The Supplemental Nutrition, Livelihood, and Employment Assistance Program, as proposed in this bill, shall aid eligible unemployed or underemployed individuals for a period of not more than six (6) months. The assistance provided for in this bill will be in the form of a cash voucher amounting to three thousand (3,000) pesos per month which shall be used to purchase food in partnered stores. Aside from a cash voucher, the program shall also provide support by helping each beneficiary in searching for a job during the 6-month period.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE "Jaye" R. LACSON - NOEL
Lone District, Malabon City



FLORENCIO GABRIEL "Bem" G. NOEL
An Waray Party-list



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION, LIVELIHOOD, AND
EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO QUALIFIED UNDERPRIVILEGED
AND UNEMPLOYED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

SECTION 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the *“Supplemental Nutrition, Livelihood, and Employment Assistance Act of 2022”*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is the policy of the state to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality life for all. The state shall assure that all Filipinos acquire employment in order to sustain their basic needs. To this end, the state shall establish programs that would provide assistance to Filipino workers who are unemployed or underemployed.

The state shall also ensure that each and every Filipino obtain the necessary amount of nutrition as mandated by P.D. 491 which states that: “The Government of the Philippines hereby declares that nutrition is now a priority of the government to be implemented by all branches of the government in an integrated fashion”.

SECTION 3. The Supplemental Nutrition, Livelihood, and Employment Assistance Program – There shall be a supplemental nutrition, livelihood, and employment assistance program for qualified beneficiaries who are either underprivileged, unemployed or underemployed. This program shall be implemented for a period of not more than six (6) months depending on the assessment of the implementing officer.

SECTION 4. Implementing Agency – The implementation of this program shall be headed by the secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the General Manager of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Executive Director of National Nutrition Council (NCC) shall constitute the board.

The DSWD, together with the NCC shall:

- a. Identify, together with DOLE, the requirements in order to qualify for the program;
- b. Obtain the names and other necessary details of persons who qualify for the program;
- c. Partner with different markets and stores where beneficiaries shall use their vouchers to purchase nutritional goods;
- d. List down food that the beneficiaries are allowed to purchase using the cash vouchers; and
- e. Administer the Supplemental Nutrition, Livelihood, and Employment Assistance Program;
- f. Provide beneficiaries with

The DOLE and TESDA, on the other hand, shall:

- a. Identify, together with the DSWD, the requirements in order to qualify for the program;
- b. Obtain the names and other necessary details of persons who qualify for the program; and
- c. Assist the beneficiaries of the program in obtaining employment during the 6-month period; and
- d. Provide skills training to beneficiaries which shall possibly aid the beneficiary in acquiring employment.

SECTION 5. Supplemental Nutrition, Livelihood, and Employment Assistance Program Voucher – the Supplemental Nutrition, Livelihood, and Employment Assistance Program shall distribute to qualified beneficiaries a cash voucher amounting to Three Thousand (3,000) Pesos which can only be used to purchase nutritional goods in partnered stores. Partnered stores shall be determined together by the DSWD and the NCC.

The DOLE, through this program, shall assist each beneficiary in searching for employment within the 6-month period of assistance. The employment that DSWD will provide the beneficiaries shall be at par with the qualifications of such beneficiary, taking into consideration their past employment, educational achievement, age, and their corresponding skills.

The TESDA, through this program, shall conduct necessary skills training as well as vocational training to beneficiaries in order to aid them in making them more employable.

SECTION 6. Coverage of the Food Voucher – the amount of the food voucher shall be Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000), or as otherwise provided by the NCC, which shall be used to purchase nutritional food. The determination as to what specific food is permitted to be purchased using the voucher shall be determined by the NCC.

SECTION 7. Appropriations – The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the existing appropriations of the DSWD, DOLE, TESDA and NCC. Thereafter, the amount needed for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the respective General Appropriations Act of the agencies.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The DSWD, DOLE, TESDA, and NCC shall jointly issue the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause – If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,