

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6534**



Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

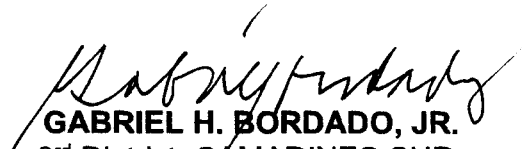
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Due to its geographical location, the Philippines is no stranger to natural disasters. It endures an average of twenty storms annually. And because of its location in an area of intense seismic activity, the country is also prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. A single extreme natural disaster even could have the potential of resulting in losses amounting to millions of pesos and the instant destruction of homes, properties, and infrastructure.

Millions of Filipino families endure losing their hard-earned money and property because of numerous storm surges passing through the country. During these difficult circumstances, it is understandable that the basic needs such as food and shelter would be the priority of those heavily impacted by natural disasters.

The State should provide assistance to those affected by such calamities in order to lessen their burden. Through this bill, families and people in areas devastated by calamities would be allowed a grace period for paying utility bills until such time that the situation has stabilized.

It is important that the Filipino families suffering losses due to these calamities be allowed time to recover and focus on securing their basic needs first. The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.
3rd District, CAMARINES SUR

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**AN ACT GIVING THE PERSONS AFFECTED BY TYPHOONS AND OTHER
NATURAL DISASTERS IN AREAS DECLARED TO BE IN A STATE OF
CALAMITY A MORATORIUM, FORBEARANCE OR GRACE PERIOD IN THE
PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Delayed Payment of Bills for Persons Affected by a State of Calamity Act of 2022"

SECTION 2. Coverage. This Act shall cover all natural persons residing or operating any business in a certain area declared to be in a State of Calamity, and who have utility payment obligations in the said affected locality.

SECTION 3. Limitation. Natural disasters shall include typhoons, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other analogous events. Provided that the area affected by such disasters is declared to be in a State of Calamity by the proper authorities. Moreover, utility bills covered under this act shall include water, electricity, telephone, internet, cable, and other similar bills.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,