

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
19TH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



House Bill No. 10712

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE
MICHAEL L. ROMERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The **1987 Constitution** mandates the state to promote and expand the Pantawid **Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)** through appropriate technology and research, with adequate financial, equipment and other support services.

The Republic of the Philippines cannot rely on outside support/sources. We must find a permanent and lasting solution to our recurring poverty crisis.

The state must ensure a stable and sufficient system by involving as many stakeholders as possible in all sectors.

We must review the mandate and flow of operations of all our government agencies involved in the production and distribution of all our key **poverty alleviation** programs to improve synergy in pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution.

RA11310, institutionalizes the "**Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)**". Congress shall give highest priority to the following sectors: protection and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good; promotion of social justice, including the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

The state shall establish programs aimed at investing on human capital and improve delivery of basic services to the poor, particularly education, health and nutrition, which is an intervention anticipated to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty, through basic services to the poor and early childhood care and development; Promote gender equality and empowerment

of women and children's rights; Achieve universal primary education; Reduce child mortality and malnutrition; Improve maternal health; and Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.

This Program is the national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program that provides conditional cash transfer to poor households for a maximum period of seven years, to improve the health, nutrition and education aspect of their lives. The **National Advisory Council (NAC)** may recommend a longer period under exceptional circumstances. selection of Qualified Household-Beneficiaries.

On a nationwide basis, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (**DSWD**) shall select qualified household-beneficiaries of the 4Ps using a standardized targeting system. The Eligible Beneficiaries are Farmers, fisherfolks, homeless families, indigenous peoples, those in the informal settler sector and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas including those in areas without electricity shall be automatically included in the standardized targeting.

This House Bill envisions a highly **acceptable and perpetual solution** to the **perennial problem on poverty status**. It has been proven that the overseas sources are very erratic and therefore very unreliable.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

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AN ACT

AMENDING **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310, PANTAWID
PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM**, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL
FUNDING AND BENEFITS FOR ALL BENEFICIARIES OF THE
PROGRAM, TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, NUTRITION AND
EDUCATION ASPECT OF ALL, PROVIDING FOR STIFFER
PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*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 "
4PS Additional Funding and Benefits Act of 2024".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY - it shall hereby be a
declared policy of the state to:

The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order thereby uplifting
its citizens and marginalized sectors from poverty through policies that
provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising
standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

The state recognizes the need to foster social justice as provided for in **Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution.**

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SELF-GOVERNING NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL. — There shall be established a self-governing advisory council to be headed by the **DSWD.**

The **National Advisory Council** shall formulate its own implementing rules and regulations to govern its proceedings. The Council shall choose its official home base and organize a staffing protocol to aid and carry out its functions.

Existing structures, facilities and equipment's that would meet the standard requirements could be upgraded to effectively serve and be designated as such in compliance with rules and regulations set by the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).**

The **Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)** is the national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program that provides conditional cash transfer to poor households for a maximum period of seven **(7)** years, to improve the health, nutrition and education aspect of their lives. The National Advisory Council **(NAC)** may recommend a longer period under exceptional circumstances.

SECTION 4. QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES - are Farmers, fisherfolks, homeless families, indigenous peoples, those in the informal settler sector and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas including those in areas without electricity shall be automatically included in the standardized targeting.

(a) Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good;

(b) The promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance;

Towards this end, the state shall establish programs that invest and harness our country's human capital and improvement of delivery of basic services to the poor, particularly education, health and nutrition, which is an intervention anticipated to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

(c) Break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through investment in human capital and improved delivery of basic services to the poor, particularly education, health, nutrition, and early childhood care and development;

(d) Promote gender equality and empowerment of women and children's rights;

(e) Achieve universal primary education;

(f) Reduce child mortality and malnutrition;

(g) Improve maternal health; and

(h) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.

SECTION 5. **SECTION 24** of RA11310 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 24. Penalties.— *Any person, whether or not acting in conspiracy with public officials, who, by act or omission, inserts or allows the insertion of data or false information, or who diverts from what ought to be contained in the registry, with the view of altering the fact, or aiding in the grant of the money to persons other than the qualified household-beneficiaries, shall be penalized with imprisonment of not less than three **(3) years** but not more than six **(6) years**, or a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos **(P100,000.00)** but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos **(P500,000.00)** or both imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the court. A public official who commits any of the acts provided herein shall be penalized with **perpetual disqualification** to hold public office. Administrative sanctions shall be imposed without prejudice to prosecution in the proper courts.*

SECTION 6. **REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL** - for purposes of this act, to execute the foregoing policy, there shall hereby be created the **Regional advisory Council**. This council shall have the overall authority and

responsibility and accountability for crafting and formulating a comprehensive program for the implementation of **poverty alleviation**.

The regional advisory councils and NAC shall have, as members, representatives from the **DSWD**, Department of Health (**DOH**), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Agriculture (**DA**), Department of Labor and Employment (**DOLE**), Department of Trade and Industry (**DTI**), Department of Agrarian Reform (**DAR**), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (**TESDA**). The regional advisory councils and NAC shall also have, as additional members, two **(2)** representatives from accredited nongovernmental organizations working or monitoring social welfare service programs.

The Council shall formulate its own implementing rules and regulations to govern its proceedings. The Council shall choose its official home base and organize a staffing protocol to aid and carry out its functions.

SECTION 7. SELECTION OF QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLD-BENEFICIARIES. - on a nationwide basis, the **DSWD** shall select qualified household-beneficiaries of the 4Ps using a standardized targeting system. It shall conduct a regular revalidation of beneficiary targeting every three (3) years.

SECTION 8. CRITERIA FOR BENEFICIARIES. - Farmers, fisherfolks, homeless families, indigenous peoples, those in the informal settler sector and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas including those in areas without electricity shall be automatically included in the standardized targeting system to be conducted by the DSWD:

Provided, That to be eligible for the cash grants, households or families must meet the following criteria:

(a) Classified as poor and near-poor based on the Standardized Targeting System and the poverty threshold issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) at the time of selection;

(b) Have members who are aged zero (0) to eighteen (18) years old or have members who are pregnant at the time of registration; and

(c) Willing to comply with the conditions specified by this Act.

Section 9. COVERAGE IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (NHIP) -All beneficiaries of 4Ps as identified by the standardized targeting system to be qualified household-beneficiaries of the 4Ps shall automatically be covered in the NHIP. The necessary funding for their coverage shall be sourced from revenue generated pursuant to *Republic Act No. 10351, otherwise known as the "Sin Tax Reform Act of 2012"*.

SECTION 10. MODE OF CASH TRANSFER. - The **DSWD** shall provide beneficiaries with direct and secured access to cash grants through any number of *Authorized Government Depository Banks (AGDBs)*. For localities not adequately served by an AGDB, the **DSWD** may, by itself or through an AGDB, contract the services of rural banks, thrift banks, cooperative banks, and institutions engaged in money remittances duly accredited by the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)*.

SECTION 11. RECURRING ASSESSMENT. - Every three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act, the *Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)* shall conduct an impact assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of the 4Ps, the veracity of the list of household-beneficiaries and the program implementation.

The amounts indicated in **Section 7 of RA11310** this Act shall be made available to the qualified household-beneficiaries during the first three (3) years of the implementation of this Act.

Provided, that every three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act, the PIDS shall recommend to the **NAC** whether the cash grants shall be adjusted to its present value using the consumer price index, as published by the **PSA**

Provided, further, That the **NAC** shall ensure that the grant amounts are sufficient to make a positive impact on the health, nutrition, and education of the beneficiaries and are timely received and spent by the beneficiaries.

SECTION 12. SETTINGS FOR ENTITLEMENT. -All qualified household-beneficiaries shall comply with all of the following conditions as a requirement for continued program eligibility:

(a) Pregnant women must avail of pre-natal services, give birth in a health facility attended by a skilled health professional, and receive post-partum care and post-natal care for her newborn;

(b) Children zero (0) to five (5) years old must receive regular preventive health and nutrition services including check-ups and vaccinations;

(c) Children one (1) to fourteen (14) years old must avail of deworming pills at least twice a year;

(d) Children three (3) to four (4) years old must attend day care or pre-school classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of them time;

(e) Children five (5) to eighteen (18) years old must attend elementary or secondary classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of their time; and

(f) At least one (1) responsible person must attend family development sessions conducted by the DSWD, at least once a month.

Any or all of the conditions for entitlement may be suspended by the **DSWD Secretary** during times of calamities, war and armed conflicts.

SECTION 13. MANDATES OF THE COUNCIL – to institutionalize all foregoing policies, the Republic of the Philippines shall focus all its development plans and programs towards the achievement of the National goals.

The **DSWD** shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure the effective operation of the facilities.

SECTION 14. NONCOMPLIANCE WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS. - The responsible person of a reported qualified household-beneficiary who fails to comply with conditions set forth in Section 11 of **RA11310** shall at first be notified in writing and the payment of cash grants will immediately be terminated. After three **(3)** months of noncompliance, the household-beneficiary shall be subject to case management process of **DSWD**.

Should the qualified household-beneficiary so notified persist in not complying with the conditions within a period of six **(6)** months since the day of receipt of the written notification, the household-beneficiary shall be removed from the program.

Section 15. LIVELIHOOD INVOLVEMENTS - Qualified household-beneficiaries shall be given priority in the availment of the modalities and interventions under **DSWD's** Sustainable Livelihood Program **(SLP)** or other appropriate or similar programs offered by other government agencies or accredited private institutions.

The household-beneficiary shall also be given priority in the availment of the employment facilitation services provided by the **SLP** or other employment programs of appropriate government agencies implementing the same

SECTION 16. SUPERVISING AND ASSESSMENT CONCERNS. — the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**, shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure the effective operations and build-up.

SECTION 17. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. — the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**.

The **DSWD** shall serve as the central planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the Program, it shall:

- (a)** Select and use an appropriate, effective and cost-efficient method to identify and select qualified household-beneficiaries;

(b) Identify and select the target household-beneficiaries on the basis of a uniform, objective and transparent selection process as indicated in Section 5 of this Act;

(c) Coordinate with different national and local government agencies, including organizations from the private sector to ensure full implementation of statutory commitments herein;

(d) Set up participatory monitoring and evaluation systems and methodologies on compliance of conditions, implementation of operations, and output and impact assessments. It shall also coordinate with the NAC and with the Independent Monitoring Committee at the national and local levels, to verify compliance on a monthly basis, using the monitoring and evaluation systems designed for the purpose;

(e) Recommend to the NAC measures and policies for the responsive delivery of the commitments under this Act;

(f) Identify the coverage of the 4Ps based on the Standardized Targeting System;

(g) Provide the seminar-workshops and training programs to educate qualified household-beneficiaries about the conditions and other actions pertinent to this Act;

(h) Organize a session on entrepreneurship and disaster preparedness and risk reduction or arrange a community development activity in the qualified household-beneficiaries' respective barangay or municipality or city whichever is available annually;

(i) Submit an annual report to Congress on all aspects of its operations, financial status and other relevant data;

(j) Formulate implementing rules and guidelines for the enforcement of this Act; and

(k) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the proper implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 18. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. —

Within ninety **(90)** days from the effectivity of this Act, the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 19. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given three (3) months transitory period from the effectivity of the **IRR** or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund this act shall be charged under the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**.

The amount of ten **10 billion pesos (Php 10, 000,000,000.00)** necessary for the initial implementation to fund this act shall be charged under the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**.

The amount determined by the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** for the implementation of this Act shall be charged under the existing funding of the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) (DSWD)**.

Thereafter such amounts necessary for the successive and continuous implementation of this Act, including the operations maintenance of reserves shall be automatically appropriated in the **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the initial implementation of this act shall be included in the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

The agencies concerned shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation, and management of all the facilities and equipment's.

SECTION 21. CONTINUING APPROPRIATION. - The Department of Budget and Management (**DBM**) is hereby mandated to include annually in the next five (5) years, in the President's Program of expenditures for submission to Congress, and release, an amount not less than five (5) billion pesos (**Php 5, 000, 000, 000.00**) for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 22. PERIODIC REPORTS - The **Secretary** of the (**DSWD**) shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on

actions to be taken by Congress and Senate and the appropriate department, and in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

The **DSWD** shall annually publish a full report of the 4Ps covering the implementation of the previous fiscal year.

The said report shall include financial disclosures, number of households included in the 4Ps, and recommendations to the Advisory Council, the President and to both chambers of Congress on how to further enhance it. This report shall be submitted to Congress before the submission of the President's Budget Message.

SECTION 23. MANDATORY MONITORING. - The **DSWD** shall monitor the implementation of the program and report its status at least once every three **(3)** years in order to ensure the attainment of the goals enumerated in Section 2 of this Act to the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines.

SECTION 24. AUTOMATIC REVIEW - Every three **(3)** years after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the **President** of the Republic shall review the policies and programs in the agriculture sector and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 25. INDEPENDENT MONITORING AGENCY. - An **Independent Monitoring Agency** shall be created at the regional, and national levels, composed of representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations **(CSOs)** to complement the monitoring activities of the **DSWD** and provide feedback for appropriate action.

It shall submit a report on the results of its monitoring activities relative to the implementation of the program to the respective regional advisory councils and the NAC.

Section 26. PROGRAM CLARITY— The **DSWD** shall regularly and timely post and update on its website a report of financial disclosures

and information about beneficiaries based on geographical area, social, economic and cultural circumstances.

SECTION 27. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. — If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 28. REPEATING CLAUSE. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 29. EFFECTIVITY. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,