



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11273



Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE WASTE WORKERS' HEALTH AND WELFARE
PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

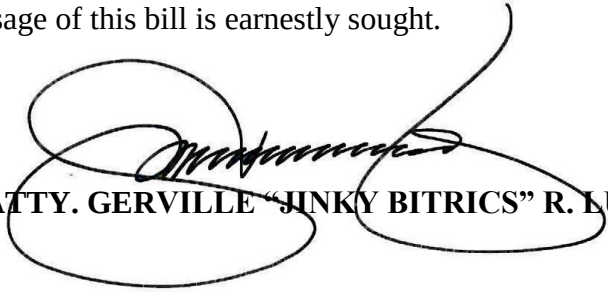
EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to story featured on Rappler on April 21, 2024, waste workers, which include garbage collectors, waste pickers, segregators and recyclers, receive wages as low as P2000 per month. For the key role that they play in the essential task of waste collection where they are exposed to possible bio-hazards and other hazardous substances, they receive no health benefits nor any insurance.

Given the challenging working conditions faced by waste workers, despite their vital role in society, it is essential for the state to offer comprehensive support. This law seeks to establish a robust health and welfare program to address the needs of waste workers by ensuring access to healthcare, protective equipment, and occupational safety training. Additionally, the bill provides opportunities for educational and financial assistance to further support their well-being.

It is important for society to recognize the valuable contributions and sacrifices made by waste workers and take meaningful steps to improve their working conditions. The passage of this legislation not only reflects our gratitude for their relentless efforts but also demonstrates our commitment to building a fairer and more just society.

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


HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO



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

Sec. 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Waste Workers' Welfare Act of 2024."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote the health, safety, and welfare of waste workers in the Philippines through the establishment of a comprehensive program that provides benefits, education, and training, and ensures access to proper equipment and facilities, in recognition of the critical role they play in maintaining the country's cleanliness and sustainability.

Sec. 3. Definition of "Waste Worker". - For the purpose of this Act, "Waste worker" refers to any person engaged in the collection, transportation, processing, and disposal of solid waste, and includes, but is not limited to, garbage collectors, waste pickers, recyclers, and landfill and dumpsite workers.

Sec. 4. Waste Workers' Welfare Program. - The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Governments and the Department of Health (DOH) shall establish and administer the Waste Workers' Welfare

Program, designed to safeguard and promote the rights and welfare of waste workers in the Philippines, which shall include the following components:

- a) **Registration and Monitoring System** - A system for the registration of waste workers, necessary for them to be covered under this Program.
- b) **Health Coverage and Benefits** - A package of healthcare benefits, including free annual check-ups, vaccinations, and hospitalization assistance, in partnership with the DOH and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).
- c) **Occupational Safety Training** - The provision of regular training programs on methods, techniques, and the proper use of personal protective equipment to minimize the risks associated with waste handling.
- d) **Personal Protective Equipment** - The mandatory provision to waste workers of suitable and adequate personal protective equipment free of charge by their employers or agencies.
- e) **Educational Assistance** - The facilitation of access to educational assistance programs and scholarship grants for waste workers and their dependents.
- f) **Financial Assistance** - The institution of a loan program under the auspices of the Department, in collaboration with qualified financial institutions, to provide waste workers with low-interest loans for housing, emergency situations, or the establishment of sustainable livelihood businesses.

Sec. 5. *Funding* - The necessary funding for the implementation of the Waste Workers Welfare Program shall be charged against LGUs' respective Local Government Budget, with the exception of (e) and (f) under Section 4 of this Act, of which shall be provided under the annual General Appropriations Act budget of DepEd and CHED, and DOLE, respectively. *Provided*, that in the case of the abovementioned exceptions, LGUs are encouraged to develop their own educational and financial assistance programs and provide funding thereof.

Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The DOLE, DILG, DOH, and other relevant stakeholders and other government agencies, shall promulgate and publish the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this law.

Sec.7. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause*. -Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,