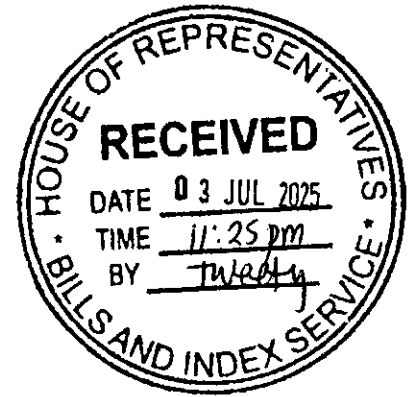


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1193

Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

**AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM
TO INCLUDE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037 OR THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA
BATANG PILIPINO ACT"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A World Bank report has estimated that the burden brought by childhood undernutrition on the Philippine economy was at USD 4.4 billion or around 1.5% of our GDP in 2015¹. The same report has found that childhood undernutrition could lead to a staggering loss of our country's human and economic potential, as such, eliminating malnutrition could improve a child's development and future employability, and increase our country's GDP by a significant amount. It stresses further that investments in nutrition are highly cost-effective.

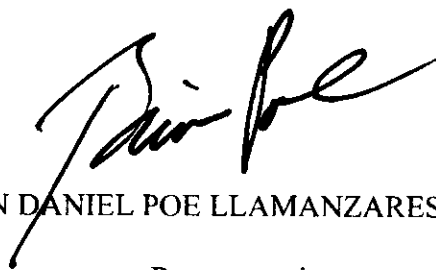
The latest Expanded National Nutrition Survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute has found that adolescents (aged 10 to 19 years old) from rural areas and those from the poorest households showed higher prevalence of stunting compared to their counterparts in urban

¹ Mbuya, N. V. N., Demombynes, G., Piza, S. F. A., and Adona, A. J. V. (2021) "Undernutrition in the Philippines: Scale, Scope, and Opportunities for Nutrition Policy and Programming." World Bank Group.

areas and richer households ². Adolescence is a pivotal time in a person's life, particularly in terms of growth and development. Proper nutrition undeniably plays a key role in this, especially with regard to a student's concentration, cognitive functions, and overall academic performance. As such, the provision of fortified meals to students, replete with essential nutrients is important.

Unfortunately, this is not readily available to all students, particularly those from households in the lowest quantiles who may have limited access to adequate nutritional meals at home. This bill seeks to expand the coverage of the National Feeding Program to include children in secondary schools as beneficiaries. Undernutrition can hamper a learner's ability to perform well in class-affecting their thinking skills, behavior, and overall health. Healthier students are less likely to have fewer absences and improved learning behavior, yielding in better and optimized learning in class.

The passage of the bill is earnestly sought.



HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

² Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute. "Philippine Nutrition Facts and Figures 2018 - 2019: Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS)". May 2022.

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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 Expanded National Feeding Program Act.”

SEC. 2. Section 4(b) of Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the “*Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act*”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 4(b). School-Based Feeding Program. — The DepEd shall implement a school-based feeding program for undernourished public school children from kindergarten to Grade Twelve (12): *Provided*, That the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal to all undernourished public kindergarten, elementary, and secondary school children for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year: *Provided, further*, That the cost of the aforementioned meals shall ensure that school children receive the appropriate amount of nutrition, which may be adjusted every year to account for inflation and for nutritional adjustments as recommended by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI): *Provided, furthermore*, That for each school division of the DepEd, meal distribution and other overhead costs of the program shall not be more than ten percent (10%) of

the total meal cost: *Provided, finally*, That in the preparation of fortified meals, the DepEd shall collaborate with recognized parents' organizations, as well as the parents of the beneficiaries of the Program, whenever applicable."

SEC. 3. Separability Clause. — Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,