

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2757**



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**Introduced by Representative Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis (DSWD-AICS) Program is part of the national government's protective services for the poor, marginalized, vulnerable, and disadvantaged individuals. The AICS Program has been implemented by the DSWD for decades, as part of its technical assistance and resource augmentation support to the local government units and other partners to provide relief to the following instances when a crisis situation may arise in communities: (1) Deprivation of basic needs such as food, water, clothing, medicine, shelter and sanitation and other health care needs; (2) Lack of job opportunities; (3) Rising number of deported overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) as a result of economic or political crisis in some parts of the world; (4) Sudden death of an immediate family member; (5) Human-induced accidents resulting to physical injuries; (6) Car accidents; (7) Patients suffering from severe and chronic diseases and mental health conditions; (8) Family disintegration due to family and marital problems that cause them to be dysfunctional; (9) Abandoned children who later become out-of-school; (10) Battered wives and malnourished children; and (10) Victims of fire incidents, especially during the peak fire season.

The institutionalization of the DSWD-AICS Program is consistent with Article II, Section 9 of the Philippine Constitution which states that "the State shall 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 of life for all." The proposed law is aimed not only to improve the DSWD-AICS Program but also to insulate government assistance from partisan politics. Time and again, some politicians use government-funded programs to advance their own political interest. This law seeks, among others, to penalize any person who will falsely represent to the beneficiaries as to the source of funding for the program or interfere with or disrupt the implementation of the program.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay V. Vergara', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

**JULIUS CESAR "JAY" V. VERGARA**  
Third District of Nueva Ecija



1 incurred by the family of the deceased, with consideration to context,  
2 cultural, and religious backgrounds;

- 3
- 4 c. *Case Management* refers to a process of assessing, planning, managing,  
5 coordinating and advocating for services and other interventions used by  
6 the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to enable the  
7 qualified beneficiaries to improve their functioning by dealing with their  
8 difficulties in addressing their needs;  
9
- 10 d. *Crisis situation* refers to a condition of an individual in a stressful situation  
11 that impairs psychosocial functioning or participation in socio-economic  
12 activities, including access to education, work, and health care, that  
13 requires series of interventions to prevent further exposure to  
14 vulnerabilities, exploitation or abuse;  
15
- 16 e. *Disability support assistance* refers to the monetary support to cover the  
17 purchase of assistive products, technologies, provision of sign language  
18 interpreter, personal assistant, maintenance medicines and hygiene needs,  
19 life support equipment, and other needs of persons with disabilities;  
20
- 21 f. *Educational assistance* refers to financial assistance extended to elementary,  
22 high school, and college students to help defray school expenses and/or  
23 cost of sending students/children to school such as school fees  
24 augmentation, supplies, projects, allowance and other related expenses and  
25 to eradicate barriers to quality education, including those barriers faced by  
26 persons on account of their disabilities;  
27
- 28 g. *Financial assistance* refers to monetary support in the form of outright cash,  
29 guarantee letter, coupon, check or voucher that has monetary value,  
30 including burial assistance, transportation assistance, medical assistance,  
31 educational assistance, training assistance, food assistance, assistance for  
32 other support services and other allied assistance or physical aid such as  
33 food, clothing, and assistive devices and technologies;  
34
- 35 h. *Food assistance* refers to assistance to those in need due to human induced  
36 and natural calamities and those experiencing other forms of crisis or  
37 displacement eviction, demolitions or requiring interventions for sector-  
38 specific support which include hot meals, food or meal allowance, or the  
39 cash equivalent of the required hot meals and/or food packs;  
40
- 41 i. *Guarantee letter* refers to a document duly approved and issued by the  
42 DSWD, which ensures the payment of the amount appearing on the  
43 document, that the beneficiary presents to any public or government  
44 owned or controlled hospitals or other entities and to any similar private  
45 entity that is willing to provide services on credit and enter into partnership  
46 agreement with DSWD;  
47

- 1 j. *Material and other assistance* refers to an assistance given to individuals in  
2 crisis by providing them non-food items, non-financial, and the likes, and  
3 may also include other professional assistance available in the DSWD, such  
4 as psycho-social support and legal consultation;  
5  
6 k. *Medical assistance* refers to out-of-pocket expense in the form of coupon,  
7 stub, guarantee letter, promissory note or voucher that has monetary value,  
8 given directly to recipients or beneficiaries to be used to pay for  
9 hospitalization expenses, other medical treatments or procedures, as well  
10 as professional fees and consultation fees, for the purchase of drugs,  
11 medicines, goods or other services prescribed by the physician of a health  
12 facility for in- and out-patients;  
13  
14 l. *Persons with disabilities* refer to those who have long-term physical, mental,  
15 intellectual or sensory impairments that hinder their full and effective  
16 participation in society on an equal basis with others, including cancer  
17 patients and persons living with cancer and cancer survivors under  
18 Republic Act No. 11215, otherwise known as "National Integrated Cancer  
19 Control Act' and persons with rare disease under Republic Act No. 10747,  
20 otherwise known as "Rare Diseases Act of the Philippines;  
21  
22 m. *Target Beneficiaries* refer to individuals or families who are indigent,  
23 vulnerable, disadvantaged, or internally displaced persons or in crisis  
24 situation based on the assessment of the social workers of the DSWD; and  
25  
26 n. *Transportation assistance* refers to the monetary support to cover the actual  
27 cost incurred on land, sea, and air travel, including travel insurance and  
28 such other related expenses as facilitated by the social workers of the  
29 DSWD.  
30

31 **Sec. 4. Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS).** — To effectively  
32 respond the needs of the crisis, each qualified target beneficiary shall receive financial,  
33 medical, transportation, food, material assistance, and other assistance, to include  
34 disability support services including other professional assistance available in the  
35 DSWD, such as psychosocial support or intervention for dysfunctional families and  
36 their children who need trauma care and management, and legal consultation, based  
37 on the assessment of the social workers of the DSWD.  
38

39 For purposes of this Act, the provision of medical assistance by the Department  
40 of Health (DOH) and its health facilities shall be harmonized with that being provided  
41 by the DSWD and other agencies. Towards this end, Republic Act No. 11463, also  
42 known as the *Malasakit Centers Act*, shall have suppletory effect for purposes of  
43 streamlining the grant of medical and financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries at  
44 the *Malasakit Centers*, and to prevent duplication in providing medical assistance to  
45 beneficiaries in crisis situation.  
46

1       **Sec. 5. *Type, Kind and Amount of Financial Assistance.*** — The type, kind and  
2 amount of assistance that the target beneficiaries may receive are based on the  
3 assessment and recommendation of the social workers or authorized personnel of the  
4 DSWD, duly approved by their authorized officials. The transportation assistance of  
5 qualified target beneficiaries who come from geographically isolated and  
6 disadvantaged areas shall be considered.

7  
8       In order to fully meet the medical needs of individuals in crisis situation,  
9 particularly persons with disabilities or people with special needs such as persons  
10 with spinal cord injury who need catheter and urine bag that entail additional costs,  
11 the DOH may provide the initial costing per type of disability for the effective  
12 assessment of social workers of the DSWD.

13  
14       Aside from the regular AICS referral for other services such as legal services,  
15 psychosocial interventions, and admission to residential facilities or temporary  
16 shelter, referral system for financial assistance augmentation may be utilized by the  
17 DSWD.

18  
19       Appropriate documentation as provided for in the DSWD AICS Guidelines  
20 shall support all disbursements of funds.

21  
22       A social case study report is required of those whose assistance is higher than  
23 ten thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).

24  
25       **Sec. 6. *Provision of Assistance Through Adoptive Means.*** —The DSWD shall adopt  
26 means in order to efficiently, expeditiously and effectively deliver the financial and  
27 material assistance to the clients and communities needing assistance from the  
28 government, such as establishment of a mobile command center at the DSWD Central  
29 Office and in all regions, establishing an automated system of processing the request  
30 for assistance as well as the releasing of the assistance to the beneficiaries, and building  
31 a unified information system, payment for the necessary service fees or financial  
32 charges for the delivery of assistance, and others.

33  
34       **Sec. 7. *Case Management System.*** — There shall be established a case  
35 management system to improve service delivery of the AICS to the qualified  
36 beneficiaries.

37  
38       In keeping with the principle of equitable access, and ensuring that access to  
39 the AICS is maximized, a mechanism for real-time data sharing between the DSWD  
40 and the LGUs shall be institutionalized, subject to the statutory limitations under the  
41 Data Privacy Act of 2012. Under this mechanism, concerned agencies and LGUs may  
42 share information from a centralized database in order to identify the assistance given  
43 to a qualified beneficiary, for purposes of assistance augmentation and to prevent a  
44 possible abuse of the assistance given to those in crisis situations.

1       **Sec. 8. Crisis Intervention Program Management Office (CIPMO).** — A Crisis  
2 Intervention Program Management Office is created at the Central Office of the  
3 Department of Social Welfare and Development. The office shall monitor and evaluate  
4 the implementation of AICS Program and prepare the monitoring and evaluation  
5 report for submission to the Secretary of the DSWD. The monitoring and evaluation  
6 report must be available and accessible to any stakeholder at the national, regional,  
7 and local levels.

8  
9       **Sec. 9. Additional Plantilla Positions.** — The DSWD shall create the required  
10 plantilla and staffing pattern necessary for the implementation of this Act, in  
11 coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service  
12 Commission.

13  
14       **Sec. 10. Personnel Complement.** — The CIPMO Central Office, the Crisis  
15 Intervention Sections, and the Social Welfare and Development Satellite Offices that  
16 implement AICS programs shall be adequately staffed by licensed social workers and  
17 support staff. The CIPMO program director at the Central Office and the regional  
18 directors in the field offices shall appoint and assign the necessary personnel for the  
19 effective implementation of the AICS program.

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21       **Sec. 11. Unlawful Acts and Penalties.** — It shall be unlawful for any individual or  
22 organization to:

- 23  
24       a. Defraud the government by issuing or presenting falsified or misleading  
25 documents, or using false pretenses or other fraudulent acts to acquire the  
26 assistance provided under this Act;  
27  
28       b. Coerce, invite, encourage or assist persons to seek assistance from the  
29 DSWD for purposes of acquiring from the beneficiary a portion of the  
30 assistance, before or after the receipt of assistance;  
31  
32       c. Mislead an individual or group to join, pay or cooperate with a group  
33 falsely representing connection or affiliation with DSWD or falsely  
34 promising priority in the processing of assistance;  
35  
36       d. Falsely represent to the beneficiaries through any means that the funding  
37 for the AICS program emanates from sources other than the national  
38 government; and  
39  
40       e. Interfere with or disrupt the implementation or delivery of AICS services  
41 or funds to the qualified beneficiaries.  
42

43       Any person, group or organization who commits any of the foregoing unlawful  
44 acts shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than  
45 six (6) years and a fine of not less than but not more than double the amount of the  
46 assistance, at the discretion of the court. If the offender is an organization, the

1 president, manager, or any officer of the organization who participated in the  
2 commission of the acts enumerated above or benefited therefrom, or both, shall be  
3 held liable. If the offender is an official or employee of any local government unit, the  
4 penalty shall include perpetual disqualification from public office.

5  
6 Conspiracy to commit the foregoing unlawful acts shall be penalized by the  
7 same penalty prescribed under this Section.

8  
9 In all circumstances, the government shall be authorized to prosecute or to file  
10 cases on behalf of the private individual defrauded and damaged by the  
11 aforementioned acts.

12  
13 Any person who were coerced, invited, encouraged or misled while  
14 committing the crimes above, or any person who has witnessed or has knowledge or  
15 information on the commission of the crime and has testified or is testifying or about  
16 to testify before any judicial or quasi-judicial body, or before any investigating  
17 authority, may be admitted into the witness protection program, Provided that to  
18 become a state witness for this crime, he/she shall not be the most guilty.

19  
20 **Sec. 12. Transparency and Public Service.** — In the spirit of transparency and the  
21 principle that government resources should be used only in the performance of official  
22 functions and not for private gain or political purposes, the DSWD shall produce  
23 inexpensive information materials which shall be adequate to inform the beneficiaries  
24 that the AICS fund originates from the revenues of the national government headed  
25 by the President. The said information materials shall contain, among others, the  
26 statement "*Pera ng Taong Bayan, Para sa Taong Bayan.*"

27  
28 **Sec. 13. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.** — A congressional oversight  
29 committee is constituted to monitor, set the overall framework, and review the  
30 implementation of this Act. The committee shall determine the inherent weaknesses  
31 in the law and recommend necessary remedial legislation or executive measures

32  
33 The oversight committee is composed of five (5) Senators and five (5)  
34 Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House  
35 of Representatives, respectively, and co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the Committee  
36 on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate and the Committee on  
37 Social Services of the House of Representatives.

38  
39 For purposes of determining remedial legislation, the oversight committee  
40 shall, within three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act, conduct a review which  
41 shall include a systematic evaluation of the impact of this Act, accomplishments of the  
42 program, and the performance of the implementing agencies.

43  
44 **Sec. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within one hundred eighty (180)  
45 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD in consultation with

1 the Secretary of the DOH and the Commission on Audit (COA), shall promulgate the  
2 necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.  
3

4 **Sec. 15. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the initial implementation  
5 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of DSWD.  
6 Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this  
7 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, including the  
8 payment for the necessary service fees, financial charges, or administrative cost, and  
9 capital outlay for the establishment of the necessary offices for the delivery of  
10 assistance.  
11

12 **Sec. 16. Separability Clause.** — If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid  
13 or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full  
14 force and effect.  
15

16 **Sec. 17. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees or issuances, executive orders,  
17 letter of instructions, administrative orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof  
18 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or  
19 modified accordingly.  
20

21 **Sec. 18. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
22 publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.  
23

24 *Approved,*