

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2795**



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine government implements numerous financial assistance programs for individuals and families in distress, particularly for urgent medical care, burial assistance, or other crisis-related support. However, many Filipinos struggle to access these programs due to inconsistent, excessive, or unclear documentary requirements imposed by national agencies and local government units.

A 2024 study analyzing ten years of Commission on Audit Annual Audit Reports found that documentation and compliance gaps are among the most persistent weaknesses in Philippine public procurement. These include delayed document submission, unclear or duplicative requirements, and audit findings resulting from procedural inconsistencies.¹

Despite the intent of Republic Act No. 11032 (2018), or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, many agencies continue to impose multiple documentary requirements that are not explicitly mandated by law. Section 5 of the Act obligates all government offices to review and reengineer their systems to eliminate redundant steps and burdensome requirements in service delivery.²

¹ Imasa, D.A. and Campos, K. (December 2024). Issues in Philippine Public Procurement: A content analysis of commission on audit annual audit reports, Issues in Philippine Public Procurement: A Content Analysis of Commission on Audit Annual Audit Reports. <https://journal2.unusa.ac.id/index.php/CDJ/article/view/6577> (Date last accessed: July 28, 2025).

² Republic Act No. 11032, "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act."

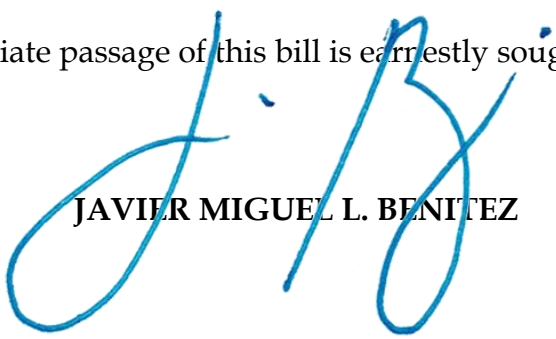
This bill seeks to correct these institutional barriers by simplifying and standardizing the core documentary requirements for accessing financial assistance from agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (“DSWD”), the Department of Health (“DOH”), and PhilHealth. It limits the required documents to: (1) A valid government-issued ID, (2) a billing statement from the service provider, and (3) a referral from the local social welfare office. Applications submitted through an authorized relative or legal guardian are allowed with safeguards to prevent abuse.

To further streamline the services, the bill requires agencies to process assistance within three working days upon complete submission. It also mandates coordination with the Anti-Red Tape Authority (“ARTA”) to ensure compliance, expedite grievance resolution, and address complaints involving unnecessary requirements or undue delays.

This bill:

- i. reinforces the State’s duty under Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution to ensure that social services are delivered in a manner that is accessible, responsive, and equitable.³ It also enhances the implementation of Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11032 (2018),⁴ and supports the Philippines’ commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 12.7, which focuses on promoting sustainable public procurement systems in accordance with national priorities;⁵ *and*
- ii. is filed as a counterpart to a Senate bill introduced by Senator Erwin Tulfo, and is consistent with similar bills filed in the 20th Congress. Its filing affirms a shared legislative policy across both chambers of Congress to simplify and standardize the documentary requirements for accessing government financial assistance.

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



JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ

³ 1987 Constitution, Article XIII, Section 11.

⁴ Republic Act No. 11032, “Eases of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”, Section 5.

⁵ Sustainable Development Goals (12.7).

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**AN ACT SIMPLIFYING THE DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR
ACCESSING GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “Simplified
Government Aid Access Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote the
general welfare of Filipino people by ensuring that individuals and families
experiencing difficult situations are provided with timely and accessible financial
assistance. Towards this end, the government shall adopt measures to remove
excessive documentary requirements and streamline procedures for availing aid
from government agencies.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all national and local
government agencies and instrumentalities, including but not limited to the
DSWD, DOH, and PhilHealth, which provide medical, burial, and similar forms
of financial assistance.

SEC. 4. *Standardized Minimum Requirements.* – To avail of immediate
financial assistance, beneficiaries in need shall only be required to submit the
following documents:

- i. Valid government-issued identification card (ID);

ii. Billing statement from the hospital, clinic, funeral parlor, or related entities; and

iii. Referral or endorsement letter issued by the City or Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office or a duly authorized local social worker.

In cases where the request for assistance is made through a representative, such representative shall present an authorization letter duly signed by the beneficiary, along with a valid government-issued ID of both the beneficiary and the representative. The authorized representative must be a relative of the beneficiary within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, or a legal guardian. *Provided*, that no individual shall act as a representative for more than two (2) beneficiaries to whom they are not related.

SEC. 5. *Streamlined Processing.* – All government agencies concerned shall process requests for assistance within three (3) working days upon submission of complete requirements under Section 4 of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Coordination with the ARTA.* – The DSWD and all implementing agencies shall coordinate with the ARTA to ensure full compliance with Republic Act No. 9485, as amended, also known as the Anti-Red Tape Act. They shall likewise work with ARTA to address complaints involving undue delays, excessive documentary requirements, or any form of non-compliance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with ARTA, DOH, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, PhilHealth, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision or part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions and parts hereof, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,