

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4968**



Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP and EDVIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to penalize selective, discretionary, and discriminatory acts committed by government employees in the delivery of social protection programs to its intended beneficiaries. Public office is a public trust. This principle ensures that the government acts with impartiality and accountability. However, the reality for many Filipinos is the experience of unfair treatment from those entrusted to provide these essential services.

Several complaints highlight instances where government personnel prioritize beneficiaries based on personal connections or other unfair biases or reasons, effectively bypassing qualified citizens who are genuinely in need. Such practices violate the principle of equitable distribution and undermine public faith in the government's efforts to assist those who are most vulnerable.

This piece of legislation directly addresses this systemic problem by establishing clear legal penalties for such misconduct. It seeks to be a deterrent against any official who engages in bias or favoritism when distributing vital assistance like cash grants, food aid, and livelihood packages.

The proposed measure's objective is simple yet crucial: to safeguard the integrity of social protection programs, guaranteeing their fair and equitable delivery to all qualified beneficiaries regardless of who they know or their status. This measure is vital to ensure that government resources intended for the poor and marginalized reach them without prejudice.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP



HON. EDVIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
PENALIZING SELECTIVE, DISCRETIONARY, AND DISCRIMINATORY ACTS IN
THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

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 “*Anti-Discrimination in the Delivery of Social Protection Programs Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order through policies that provide adequate social services and promote full employment, enhanced standard of living, and improved quality of life for all.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:

(a) Discrimination refers to any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing the access to social protection programs; and

(b) Social Protection Programs refer to various government programs aimed at ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups have access to essential services and opportunities, which shall include, but not limited to financial assistance, medical assistance, livelihood programs, and other relief assistance programs.

SEC. 4. *Coverage.* — This Act shall apply to all government employees, whether acting alone or in conspiracy with private persons, in the performance of, or in connection with the delivery of cash grants, food stubs, livelihood or relief packages, and/or other social protection programs of the government.

SEC. 5. *Prohibition on Selective, Discretionary, or Discriminatory Acts in the Delivery of Social Protection Programs.* — It shall be unlawful for any government employee, whether acting alone or in conspiracy with private persons, to, by act or omission, directly or indirectly:

(a) Distribute or assist in the distribution of cash grants, food stubs, livelihood or relief packages, or other assistance programs to persons other than the qualified beneficiaries;

(b) Give priority to, or directs another to prioritize, their relatives by affinity or consanguinity within the third (3rd) degree over other qualified beneficiaries; or

(c) Exclude qualified beneficiaries from receiving assistance programs.

SEC. 6. *Penalties.* — Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, and with perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* — If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *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,