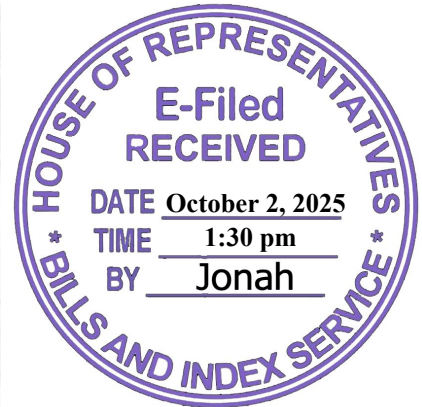




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5093



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is the Philippines' flagship poverty reduction and human capital investment initiative. Designed as a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program, it provides monetary grants to eligible poor households, contingent on their compliance with conditions related to health, nutrition, and education, particularly for children. Institutionalized by Republic Act No. 11310 in 2019, the 4Ps aims to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by empowering families to invest in their well-being and future.

However, under Section 4 of RA 11310, there is a seven-year maximum period for households to receive these cash grants, intended to foster self-sufficiency and allow for a rotation of beneficiaries. The rationale behind the seven-year limit was likely rooted in the expectation that a fixed period of support would enable families to achieve a level of economic stability, thereby "graduating" from the program. This approach aimed to prevent dependency and ensure that new, equally deserving households could benefit from the limited resources.

It was envisioned that within this timeframe, families would have sufficient opportunity to improve their health and educational outcomes, leading to better livelihood prospects and sustained independence. However, recent assessments and ongoing discussions in Congress, including directives from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., highlight a pressing need to re-evaluate this rigid time constraint.

The primary argument for reviewing the seven-year limit stems from the complex and often protracted nature of poverty itself. While the 4Ps has demonstrated

positive impacts on health and education indicators, achieving genuine and sustainable self-sufficiency is not a linear process that uniformly concludes within seven years for all beneficiaries. Many families remain highly vulnerable to external shocks such as economic downturns, natural disasters, or unexpected health crises, which can severely impede their progress.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has voiced concerns that by the year 2026, 1.89 million households will be forced to exit the program due to the limit, despite not having truly escaped poverty, risking a backslide into worse conditions and effectively undoing the program's prior investments.

Therefore, a critical review of the seven-year limit is imperative to align the program's mechanics with its overarching goal of breaking intergenerational poverty. Instead of an arbitrary cut-off, a more flexible, needs-based, and data-driven approach is being advocated. This would involve comprehensive assessments of a family's actual socioeconomic status and readiness for self-sufficiency, coupled with robust "aftercare" or livelihood support programs for those transitioning out. By adapting the program to the realities faced by poor households and focusing on sustained outcomes rather than just time elapsed, the 4Ps can become an even more effective and responsive tool in the nation's fight against poverty.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought and that the same be jointly referred to the House Committees on Social Services and Poverty Alleviation.



HON. CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative, 2nd District of Davao Oriental



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HOUSE BILL NO. 5093

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM", AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the
"Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
(4Ps). – The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is the
national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital
investment program that provides conditional cash transfer to
poor households for a ~~maximum~~ period **TO BE DETERMINED**
BY THE DSWD BASED ON THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF

THE BENEFICIARIES ~~of seven (7) years,~~ to improve the health, nutrition and education aspect of their lives. ~~The National Advisory Council (NAC) may recommend a longer period under exceptional circumstances,~~

SEC. 2. Separability clause. If any provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. Repealing clause. All laws, orders, rules and regulations, parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity clause. This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation or in the Official gazette.

Approved,