



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5252



Introduced by **Representative EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution directs the State to *"promote a just and dynamic social order that will... free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services."* Furthermore, Article XIII, Section 1 tasks Congress to give the *"highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity [and] reduce social, economic, and political inequalities."*

This proposed law seeks to institutionalize the **Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS)** program by providing a reliable and accessible mechanism for immediate relief. Currently, the AICS program is a vital service of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), but its implementation and funding can be subject to administrative discretion. Hence, this measure intends to provide a legal framework which shall:

- **Standardize Aid:** Defines and establishes the types of assistance available—including food, medical, burial, educational, and transportation aid—and sets standardized benefit rates.
- **Guaranteed Funding:** Through an annual appropriation, the bill ensures the program's continuity and financial stability, making it a dependable relief for those in need.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The bill shall create a **Joint Congressional Oversight Committee** with mandatory annual reporting. This will guarantee public accountability in the implementation.

The AICS Act's passage shall establish a stable, and transparent framework that is important to millions of Filipinos. Moreover, this is a crucial step to ensure that no one is abandoned during their most challenging moments.

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



REP. EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.

2nd District, City of Cebu



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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANTING OF ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS
IN CRISIS SITUATIONS (AICS), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Assistance to Individuals in
2 Crisis Situation Act"

3
4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value
5 the dignity of every human being and guarantee full respect for human rights. Towards this end,
6 disadvantaged individuals, families, and communities must be liberated from the poverty by
7 providing relief, projects, programs, and services geared towards alleviating poverty and improving
8 the quality of life of every Filipino.

9
10 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.***-

- 11 a. Burial Assistance- refers to the assistance to defray funeral and other related expenses.
12 b. Cash Assistance- refers to other support services provided to individuals and families in
13 extreme difficult circumstances in which the need does not fall on other types of assistance.
14 c. Crisis Situation- A condition in which an individual is faced with a difficult situation
15 resulting in the impairment of their psychosocial functioning thereby needing a series of
16 interventions to prevent further exposure to vulnerabilities, exploitation, and abuse;

- d. Education Assistance-refers to the assistance given to eligible students to help ease the burden from school expenses and/or cost of sending students to school.
- e. Food Assistance- refers to the assistance given to beneficiaries amounting to at least one eighty pesos (P 80.00) per meal per individual for meals.
- f. Medical Assistance-refers to assistance to help shoulder hospitalization expenses, medications and other medical treatment or procedure, or professional fees.
- g. Target Beneficiaries- refers to individuals who are in a crisis situation based on the assessment of social workers;
- h. Transportation Assistance- refers to the assistance for the purchase or payment of transportation tickets and/or expenses to enable the beneficiaries to return to their home provinces permanently or seek further medical intervention in another place, or to attend to emergency concerns or critical situations of family members or other individuals in need.

SECTION 4. *The Assistance To Individual in Crisis Situations Act.* - The AICS program shall provide assistance to individuals and families in crisis situations or difficult situation in the form of psychosocial assistance or direct financial and material assistance.

The AICS program shall provide its target beneficiaries with transportation assistance, medical assistance, burial assistance, education assistance, food assistance, cash assistance, psychosocial intervention, or referral for other services subject to screening, verification and assessment of the beneficiaries needs by social workers. *Provided.* that in providing education assistance, working students in public education institutions shall be prioritized.

SECTION 5. *Eligibility to Receive AICS Assistance.* The client seeking assistance shall present to the Social Worker assigned the following documents as may be required depending to the type of assistance applied for:

- a) Government issued identification card
- b) Police blotter
- c) Police certification
- d) Barangay Certification
- e) Medical case study report, medical certificate, medical abstract
- f) Hospital billing statement or statement of account
- g) Medical prescriptions
- h) Death certificate

- i) Funeral contract
- j) School enrollment form or certificate of registration
- k) School identification card
- l) Travel documents
- m) Any other supporting documents as may be required in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act

SECTION 6. *Rates of Assistance.* The range of the rates of assistance per type including the frequency with which a beneficiary may avail the same, shall be as follows:

Type	Particulars	Cost of Assistance		Frequency of Availment
		Minimum	Maximum	
Burial Assistance	Funeral Expenses	P 5,000.00	P 25,000.00	A client may avail two (2) services at the same time
	Transfer of Cadaver	P 5,000.00	P 25,000.00	
	Casualties during disaster/calamity	P 10,000.00 per casualty		
Cash Assistance for other support services	Other needs	P 1,000.00	P 10,000.00	Once every applicable incident
Educational Assistance	Elementary Students	P 1,000.00	P 10,000.00	Once (1) every school year
	High School Students	P 1,500.00	P 10,000.00	
	Senior High School or College Students	P 3,000.00	P 10,000.00	Once (1) every semester
Food Assistance	Food Subsidy for individuals or families	P 1,000.00	P 5,000.00	As needed, subject to assessment
Medical Assistance	Hospitalization or Hospital Bills	P 1,000.00	P 150,000.00	Once every three (3) months
	Medicines (out-patient)	P 1,000.00	P 10,000.00	

	Laboratory Procedures (out-patient)	P 1,000.00	P 10,000.00	
Transportation Assistance	Land Travel	Actual cost based on ticket quotation.		Once (1) a year
	Sea Travel			
	Air Travel			
Provision of PPEs		P 1,000.00	P 2,000.00	Once (1) every three (3) months

SECTION 7. *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the Lead Agency.* - The DSWD shall serve as the central planning, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring of the AICS program.

In the implementation of this Act, the DSWD shall perform the following functions:

- a) Screen, verify, and access the situation of the beneficiaries and identify the appropriate intervention to fully serve their situation;
- b) Provide the appropriate assistance to the beneficiaries from the array of benefits enumerated in Section 6 of this Act;
- c) Coordinate with different national and local agencies, including organizations from the private sector to ensure full implementation of statutory commitments herein;
- d) Submit an annual report to Congress on all aspects of the operations of the program, financial statues, and other relevant data, and
- e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Creation of Advisory Councils.* An Advisory Council shall be created at the regional and national levels to be headed by the DSWD.

The regional advisory council (RACs) and national advisory councils (NAC) shall have, as members, representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The

1 RACs and NAC shall also have, as additional members, two (2) representatives from accredited
2 non-governmental organizations working or monitoring social welfare service program.

3
4 The advisory councils shall have the following functions:

- 5 a. Meet regularly to promote coordination across agencies to enhance the implementation of
6 the program and jointly address and resolve program implementation issues;
- 7 b. Recommend to the President of the Philippines measures and policies for the responsive
8 delivery of the commitments under this Act and integration with the general poverty
9 reduction strategy of the government;
- 10 c. Promulgate a grievance redress system and accept complaints and grievances pertaining to
11 the implementation of the program.
- 12 d. Review the monitoring and assessment reports of the Independent Monitoring Committee
13 and submit necessary policy recommendations to Congress to improve and strengthen the
14 program, if necessary.

15
16 **SECTION 9. *Creation of Independent Monitoring Committee.*** An independent
17 Monitoring Committee shall be created at the regional and national levels composed of
18 representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations (CSO) to complement the
19 monitoring activities of the DSWD and provide feedback for appropriate action. It shall submit a
20 report on the results of its monitoring activities relative to the implementation of the program to
21 the respective regional advisory councils and the NAC. A monitoring and evaluation report shall
22 be submitted to the DSWD and to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee at regular
23 intervals, as determined in the implementing rules and regulations.

24
25 **SECTION 10. *Annual Report of the Program.*** The DSWD shall annually publish a full
26 report of the AICS covering the implementation of the previous fiscal year. The said report shall
27 include financial disclosures, number of clients/beneficiaries served, and recommendations to the
28 President and to both chambers of Congress on how to further enhance it. This report shall be
29 submitted to the Congress before the submission of the President's Budget Message.

30
31 **SECTION 11. *Program Transparency.*** The DSWD shall regularly and timely post and
32 update on its website a report of financial disclosures and information about beneficiaries based
33 on geographical area, social, economic, and cultural circumstances.

1 **SECTION 12. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** Upon the effectivity of this
2 Act, a Congressional Oversight Committee, hereafter referred to as the AICS Oversight Committee
3 is hereby constituted. This committee shall set the overall framework to review the implementation
4 of this Act. It shall likewise determine the inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend
5 necessary remedial legislation or executive measures.

6
7 The AICS Oversight Committee shall be composed of six (6) members with the
8 chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committees on Social Justice, Welfare, and Rural Development of the Senate as co-chairpersons;
10 and six (6) members from each House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives and the Senate President, respectively.

12
13 For purposes of determining remedial legislation, the AICS Oversight Committee shall,
14 within six (6) years after the effectivity of this Act, conduct a review which shall include a
15 systematic evaluation of the impact of this Act, accomplishments of the programs, and the
16 performance of its implementing agency.

17
18 **SECTION 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within one (1) month of the
19 effectivity of this Act, the DSWD Secretary shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
20 to implement the Act.

21
22 **SECTION 14. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
23 this Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the DSWD of the year following
24 its enactment into law..

25
26 **SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
27 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue to be in full force and effect.

28
29 **SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
30 administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or
31 contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

32
33 **SECTION 17. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
34 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

1 Approved,