



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5562

Introduced by **HONORABLE BENJAMIN C. AGARAO, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the "*Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act*," was enacted to address undernutrition and hunger among Filipino children through a sustainable feeding program in public day care centers and public elementary schools. The law has contributed significantly to improving the health and school performance of its beneficiaries. However, the persistent challenges of malnutrition, stunting, and food insecurity demand that the program be strengthened and expanded to meet current needs.

This proposed measure seeks to further enhance the *National Feeding Program* by broadening its coverage and institutionalizing additional safeguards for effectiveness, sustainability, and accountability.

First, it integrates **Health Monitoring** into the program by requiring mandatory growth monitoring—height, weight, and body mass index (BMI)—of beneficiaries at least twice a year. This ensures that the program's impact is measured not only in terms of food distribution but also in improving the actual health and nutritional outcomes of Filipino children. It also allows early identification of health concerns that may require further interventions.

Second, the bill emphasizes **Environmental and Ethical Considerations** in the implementation of feeding programs. The use of eco-friendly packaging, such as biodegradable or reusable containers, shall be mandated to reduce plastic waste and promote environmental sustainability. Furthermore, strict adherence to food safety standards prescribed by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shall be required to safeguard the well-being of beneficiaries.

By strengthening the *Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act* through these amendments, this measure not only seeks to feed children but also to holistically

nurture their growth, ensure the safety and quality of the food they consume, and instill values of health, safety, and environmental responsibility.

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



HON. BENJAMIN C. AGARAO, JR.
4th District, Laguna

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5562

Introduced by **HONORABLE BENJAMIN C. AGARAO, JR.**

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC DAY CARE CENTERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTIONS 4 (A) AND 4 (B) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT", AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 *"Expanded National Child Feeding Program Act."*

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11037 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. National Feeding Program. – The National Feeding Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, is hereby established to address undernutrition among Filipino children.

The Program shall have the following components and coverage:

(a) Supplemental Feeding Program for Day Care Children. – The DSWD, in coordination with the LGUs concerned, shall implement a supplemental feeding program for children from ages three (3) to five (5) years. The program shall be administered in day care centers or in any other facility which can be used for such purpose: *Provided*, That the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year: *Provided, further*, That in the preparation of fortified meals, the DSWD shall work in collaboration with recognized parents' organizations.

(b) School-Based Feeding Program for Public School Children. – The DepEd shall implement a school-based feeding program for public school children from kindergarten to grade six (6): *Provided*, That the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) fortified meal to all undernourished public elementary school

children for a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year.

(c) Health Integration. – The Program shall include regular monitoring of beneficiaries' nutritional status through mandatory growth monitoring, including height, weight, and body mass index (BMI), at least twice (2x) a year, to evaluate effectiveness and address identified health concerns.

(d) Environmental and Ethical Considerations. – The Program shall require the use of eco-friendly packaging, prioritizing biodegradable or reusable food containers to reduce plastic waste. Strict compliance with food safety standards of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the preparation, storage, and handling of meals shall likewise be ensured."

SECTION 3. Appropriations.

The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the Contingent Fund. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Education under the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the DSWD, DOH, FDA, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause.

If any part, section, or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause.

All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity.

This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,