

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5718



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE “MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT” TO INCLUDE UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AMENDING FOR SAID PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution, the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being.

Impelled by this Constitutional mandate, Republic Act No. 11037 or the Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act was enacted into law in 2017, to institutionalize a national school-based feeding program (SBFP) for the undernourished children in public day care, kindergarten and elementary schools.

The SBFP has served an annual average of more than 1.8 million learners from school years 2016-2019 and around 3.5 million learners from school years 2020-2022. The SBFP has improved the nutritional status of its beneficiaries from 32% in school year 2016-2017, the stunted and wasted went down to 22% in school year 2019-2020.¹

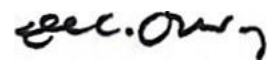
Despite the marked improvement in nutritional status of our learners in pre-school and elementary levels, adolescents in the secondary level remain vulnerable to food insecurity as a result of their exclusion from the coverage of the SBFP.

The Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute observed that stunting was more common among adolescents aged 16

to 19 years (28.4%). There were slightly more stunted male adolescents (23.2%) than female adolescents (21.5%). Adolescents residing in rural areas (23.8%) had slightly higher stunting prevalence than those living in urban areas (20/3%). Moreover, stunting prevalence among adolescents was highest among the poorest households (35.2%) and lowest among the richest groups (11.4%).²

This bill seeks to expand the coverage of Republic Act No. 11037 or the Masustansyang Pagkain Para Sa Batang Pilipino Act to include learners in public secondary schools as among the SBFP's beneficiaries to address the issue of undernutrition among our adolescent learners and allow them to realize their full potential.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is respectfully sought.



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

SECTION 1. Expansion of Coverage of RA No. 11037. Section 4 of RA No. 11037 otherwise known as “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act” is hereby amended to read as follows:

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“(b) School-Based Feeding Program. - The DepED shall implement a school-based feeding program for undernourished public school children from kindergarten to Grade Twelve (12): *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, *provided further*, that the cost per meal for this Program may be adjusted periodically to account for inflation or for any nutritional adjustments as may be recommended by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute; *provided further*, that ten percent (10 %) of the total cost of meal for each school division of DepEd shall be allocated to cover overhead costs for the feeding program; *provided finally* that the DepEd shall collaborate with the parents of the intended beneficiaries and affiliated parent’s organization in the preparation and distribution of the fortified meals.

xxx

(h) Integrated Nutrition Education, Behavioral Transformation, and Social Mobilization. - The Program shall be complemented by a public health, nutrition, and values transformation campaign to promote a holistic and integrated

approach to health and nutrition education. Orientation-training on the objectives and mechanics of the Program shall be held among the personnel of NGAS and LGUs concerned, parents of the Program's beneficiaries, and the parent-teachers associations (PTAs) to generate support for the Program. The NGAs concerned shall also endeavor to mobilize community organizations to continue nutrition education outside of the school.

SECTION 2. Prioritization in the Expanded Coverage Program Implementation.- Section 5 of the same Act be amended as follows:

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“(a) With the highest prevalence of undernutrition and nutrient-deficiency among children aged three (3) years up to grade twelve (12) level;”

SECTION 3. Enhanced Private Sector Participation. Section 8 of the same Act to be amended as follows:

“Section 8. Private Sector Participation. - The NGAs shall encourage the participation of the private sector in the Program which shall include, among others, PTAs, private corporations, peoples and nongovernment organizations and such other groups or organizations, both foreign and local, that may want to be partner in whole or in part with the implementation of the Program. provided, that the DepEd shall prioritize its linkages with small scale producers, small-medium enterprises, and community-based resources to supply the meals for the feeding program, whenever applicable.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall maintain and share with the DepEd an updated registry of small-scale producers in each region who may supply the necessary ingredients or meals for the feeding program. The DA may utilize the Registry for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RBSA), the Regional Field Office (RFO) List of Beneficiaries, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' National Program for Fisherfolk Registration (BFAR FISH R) for fisherfolk and any other list it may deem necessary to keep the registry updated. The DA is further required to coordinate with the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) to compare and review the registry with the DSWD's National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) to avoid duplication of entries.”

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause.- All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive

orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen [15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,