

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5800**



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill broadens the reach of the School-Based Feeding Program under Republic Act No. 11037, or the *“Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act,”* to include high school students in the national feeding program.

According to the EDCOM II Year Two Report, one in four Filipino children under five is stunted, while only 25% meet the recommended energy intake. The report also emphasized that chronic malnutrition weakens children’s cognitive development and learning ability. Malnourished learners attend school less frequently, achieve lower academic outcomes, and drop out earlier¹.

Despite ongoing government programs, EDCOM II finds that only 23% of Filipino children benefit from feeding programs, and only 28% of poor children in need of nutritional support receive assistance which leaves the most vulnerable learners without help.

This measure expands the free meals program to include high school learners and ensures that schools serve nutritionally adequate, locally sourced meals. It requires the government to procure at least 30% of food supplies from small-scale farmers certified by the Department of Agriculture. Through this, the bill enables students to gain proper nutrition while empowering farmers with stable livelihoods, promoting food security and inclusive rural growth.

Learning begins with nourishment. By feeding students and supporting local producers, not only does it break the cycle of malnutrition but also help in providing livelihood.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP



HON. EDVIC G. YAP

¹ Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2). (2025). *Fixing the Foundations: A matter of national survival, EDCOM II year two report*. Congress of the Philippines.

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AN ACT

**EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM AND
MANDATING THE PROCUREMENT FROM SMALL SCALE FARMERS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 11037 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT”**

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 School-Based Feeding Program Act”.

SEC. 2. Section 4 (b) of Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the “*Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act*” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. *National Feeding Program.* — x x x

“x x x

b) School-Based Feeding Program. — The DepED shall implement a school-based feeding program for [undernourished] public school children from kindergarten to grade [six (6)] **TWELVE (12)** ; *Provided*, That the Program shall include the provision of at least one (1) **FULL** fortified meal to all [undernourished] public **KINDERGARTEN**, elementary, **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**, AND **SENIOR HIGH** school [children] **LEARNERS** for [a period of not less than one hundred twenty (120) days in a year] **FOR THE DURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR;**

x x x.”

SEC. 3. A new sub-paragraph (i) under the same Section 4 shall be added and read as follows:

“SEC. 4. *National Feeding Program.* — xxx

“x x x

I) PROCUREMENT OF PRODUCE FROM SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS. – THE GOVERNMENT IS HEREBY MANDATED TO ENSURE THAT THIRTY (30%) OR MORE OF THE SUPPLIES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM ARE PROCURED FROM SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS OR FARMERS AS CERTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.”

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Nutrition Council (NNC), the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and such other relevant government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and development partners, shall promulgate their respective rules and regulations for the efficient and effective of this act.

The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,