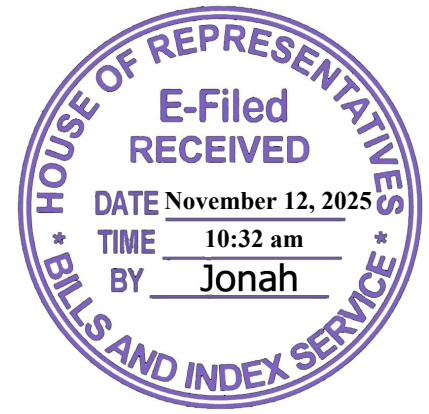


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5892



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has been a vital lifeline and social safety net for millions of Filipinos for decades. It serves as a stop-gap measure providing immediate, one-time support to individuals and families who are suffering from unexpected life events or crises, which often leave them financially and emotionally devastated.

The assistance under the AICS Program is crucial as it addresses sudden, urgent, and varied needs that are often beyond the coverage of other government social protection programs. This includes:

1. Medical Assistance for hospitalization, medicines, and medical procedures.
2. Funeral/Burial Assistance for the immediate costs associated with the death of a family member.
3. Educational Assistance to help defray school-related expenses.
4. Transportation Assistance for purposes like permanent return to home provinces or seeking medical intervention in another locality.
5. Food/Cash Relief Assistance for other support services and basic needs.

Despite its critical role as a frontline service for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable, the AICS Program currently relies on administrative issuances and annual budgetary allocations, which subject its continuous and standardized implementation to potential policy changes and budget cuts. This precarious status can lead to service disruption, unequal access, and administrative inconsistencies across different regions and administrations.

Institutionalizing the AICS Program through an Act of Congress will provide it with a permanent legal framework. This will ensure its operation regardless of changes in government administration.

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



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5892

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN
CRISIS SITUATION (AICS) PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), PROVIDING FOR ITS PERMANENT
FUNDING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Assistance to
Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote social
justice and human rights, ensure a dynamic social order, and provide adequate
social services. The State shall establish a comprehensive and responsive social
safety net program that provides timely, direct, and non-partisan assistance to
individuals and families who are poor, marginalized, or vulnerable, and who are
struggling with unexpected life-threatening or crisis situations.

SEC. 3. *Institutionalization of the AICS Program.* - The Assistance to
Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program of the Department of Social
Welfare and Development (DSWD) is hereby institutionalized as a permanent
social welfare service and a pillar of the National Social Protection Strategy.

SEC. 4. *Program Objective.* - The AICS Program shall serve as a social
safety net or stop-gap measure to support the immediate recovery of individuals
and families from an unexpected crisis situation through the provision of
psychosocial intervention, direct financial, and/or material assistance.

SEC. 5. *Eligible Beneficiaries.* - The Program shall cover indigent individuals and families in a state of active crisis as assessed by a DSWD-registered social worker. Crisis situations shall include, but not be limited to, those arising from:

- a. Illness, Disability, or Medical Emergency;
- b. Death of a family member;
- c. Displacement due to armed conflict, human-induced, or natural calamities;
- d. Financial hardship resulting from job loss, loss of livelihood, or other severe socio-economic problems; and e. Other urgent, unforeseen, and time-bound situations that threaten the safety and well-being of the individual or family.

SEC. 6. *Forms of Assistance.* - The AICS Program shall provide the following assistance, based on the assessment and recommendation of a DSWD social worker:

- a. Financial Assistance: Monetary aid in the form of cash, check, or guarantee letter, to cover costs for medical/hospital expenses, funeral/burial expenses, educational needs, transportation, and other basic support services.
- b. Material Assistance: Provision of in-kind aid such as food packs, non-food items, assistive devices, and other material support.
- c. Psychosocial Support Service: Provision of counseling, stress debriefing, and other professional interventions by a trained social worker or professional.
- d. Referral Service: Facilitation of access to other government agencies and institutions for assistance that falls outside the direct mandate of AICS.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Agency and Structure.* -

- a. Primary Implementor: The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), through its Crisis Intervention Units (CIUs) in the Central Office, Field Offices (FOs), Social Welfare and Development (SWAD) Offices, and established Malasakit Centers, shall be the primary implementing agency.

- b. **Monitoring and Data Sharing:** The DSWD shall maintain a centralized, integrated, and real-time electronic data management system for all AICS beneficiaries to monitor assistance provided, prevent duplication, and ensure transparency, subject to the provisions of the Data Privacy Act of 2012.
- c. **Coordination:** The DSWD shall strengthen its coordination with Local Government Units (LGUs), other National Government Agencies (NGAs), and other stakeholders to streamline the intake, assessment, and distribution process.

SEC. 8. *Prohibition of Interference and Coercion.* - It shall be unlawful for any official or employee of the DSWD, the LGU, their agents, representatives, or relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, to:

- a. Interfere, in any manner, in the implementation or delivery of AICS services or funds to qualified beneficiaries.
- b. Coerce, invite, encourage, or assist persons to seek assistance from the DSWD for the purpose of acquiring, or receiving a portion of the assistance.
- c. Mislead an individual or group to join, pay, or cooperate with a group falsely representing connection or affiliation with DSWD or falsely promising priority in the processing of assistance.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

SEC. 10. *Penalties.* - Any public official or employee who violates Section 8 of this Act shall be subject to the penalties provided under the Revised Penal Code, and shall suffer a minimum of thirty (30) days suspension from office without pay, without prejudice to criminal and civil liabilities.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other

relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,