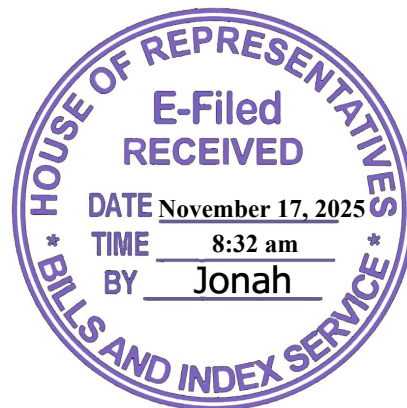




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5991



Introduced by Representative KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11037, or the “Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act,” established a feeding program for undernourished children in public day care and elementary schools. However, malnutrition continues to affect not only young children but also adolescents, impairing their health, growth, and academic performance.

Studies show that nearly one in four Filipino adolescents aged 10–19 years is stunted, while many remain underweight due to poverty and lack of access to nutritious food. These figures highlight the urgent need to extend government nutrition programs beyond elementary education.

This bill seeks to expand the coverage of the National Feeding Program to include undernourished students in secondary schools, ensuring continuous nutritional support throughout a child’s formative years. It also increases the meal cost to at least ₱35.00 per student and strengthens coordination between DepEd, parents, and local communities in program delivery.

Through this measure, the State reaffirms its duty to invest in the health, learning, and future productivity of Filipino youth.

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN
2nd DISTRICT ILOCOS SUR



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AN ACT

**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
“MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT” TO INCLUDE
UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ITS COVERAGE
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

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

xxx

“(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 SHALL BE AT LEAST THIRTY-FIVE (P35.00) PESOS AND 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 INTENDED 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. Section 5 of the same Act be amended as follows:

xxx

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

SECTION 3. 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 SMEs AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCES TO SUPPLY THE MEALS FOR THE FEEDING PROGRAM, WHENEVER APPLICABLE.”

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 3. *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 4. *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,