

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6311



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11037, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“MASUSTANSYANG PAGKAIN PARA SA BATANG PILIPINO ACT,”
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Malnutrition is a serious and persistent issue in the Philippines, significantly impacting children’s growth and development. The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) reports that millions of Filipino children continue to face challenges of inadequate nutrition and limited learning capacity.

A 2021 survey found that among children under five years old, around 2 in every 10 were underweight and about 3 in every 10 were stunted.¹ Notably, the Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute underscores that children within this age group are most vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition.²

To address these issues in early childhood, Republic Act No. 11148 or the *Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act* provides nutrition interventions for Filipino children who are newly born up to age 24 months. Meanwhile, Republic Act No. 11037 or the *Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act* provides for a supplemental feeding program for undernourished children aged three to five years. This leaves a

¹ Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI). 2024. Philippine Nutrition Facts and Figures: 2021 Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS). FNRI Bldg., DOST Compound, Gen. Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

² *Id.*

critical gap in the law for nutrition-specific programs for children aged 25-36 months. This measure seeks to address this gap by expanding the coverage of the supplemental feeding program under R.A. No. 11037, to include undernourished children aged two to five years.

This issue of malnutrition extends beyond the pre-school years. In 2021, one in every five school-age children (aged 5-10 years old) was classified as underweight.³ R.A. No. 11037 aims to address this through the school-based feeding program. However, the current law only provides that the program covers a period of not less than 120 days in a year. To maximize the program's impact, we propose that the period be extended to cover at least the number of school days in a given school year. Considering that the program is inherently "school-based," the nutritional interventions should be provided for the entire duration that the covered children are attending school.

Finally, the bill aims to strengthen the current law by establishing a mechanism to expand its coverage, including children with disabilities, indigenous learners, and undernourished students in secondary education enrolled in public schools.

With this measure, we want to ensure that all Filipino children have the proper nutrition to enable them to learn effectively in school. By investing in an expanded nutrition program and prioritizing children's health, we build the foundation for a healthy and capable society.

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


BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

³ *Id.*

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

SECTION 1. Amendatory Provisions. – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11037, otherwise known as the “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act.” 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 undernourished children with ages ~~three (3)~~ **TWO (2)** to five 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~~ **THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH SCHOOL YEAR**: Provided,

further, That in the preparation of fortified **HOT** meals, the DSWD shall work in collaboration with recognized parents' organizations.

THE DSWD SHALL COLLABORATE CLOSELY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) AND THE LGUS IN PROVIDING HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES TO UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN BELOW TWO (2) YEARS OF AGE. THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD) COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ENSURING DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS ARE INTEGRATED WITH NUTRITION SERVICES.

- (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): 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~~ **THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH SCHOOL YEAR; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, SECONDARY BENEFICIARIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, INDIGENOUS LEARNERS, UNDERNOURISHED STUDENTS IN SECONDARY EDUCATION ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MAY BE COVERED UNDER THE SCHOOL-BASED FEEDING PROGRAM.**

- (c) xxx;
- (d) xxx;
- (e) xxx;
- (f) xxx
- (g) xxx; and
- (h) xxx.

SECTION. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, DepEd and DA, in coordination with the National Nutrition Council, ECCD Council, and other relevant government agencies shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act: Provided, That the failure

of the relevant agencies to promulgate the said IRR shall not prevent or delay the effectivity and implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the NGAs. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA under the respective budgets of the NGAs.

SECTION. 4. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 6. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,