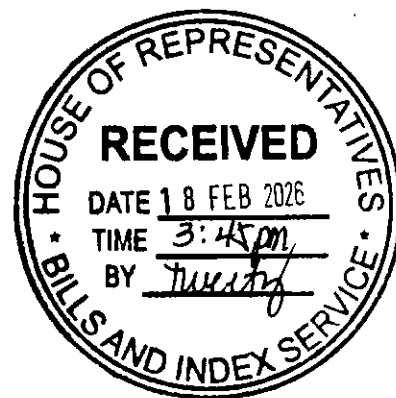




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7880



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bureaucratic red tape continues to burden Filipinos, most especially those living below or near the poverty line. This bill, a counterpart legislation of Senate Bill No. 155, seeks to streamline the process and adopt a simplified documentary requirements for availing of government financial aid and assistance.

Under Article XI, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, it is stated that public office is a public trust. As such, it is imperative on public officers and employees to serve the people with utmost responsibility and efficiency. This recognizes efficiency as the government mandate. As such, any kind of delay is tantamount to violation of duty.

While R.A. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Act greatly improved processes in business permits and registrations, there are still gaps that remain as to financial aid and assistance from the government.

Filipinos often encounter delays in the processing of government financial aid and assistance due to redundant and excessive documentary requirements. These requirements make it seem as though Filipinos are being sent in circles just to receive government aid and assistance. At present, DSWD regional office made some efforts to streamline services by reducing the steps in applying for assistance and by implementing a queuing system.¹ However,

¹ Philippine Information Agency, "DSWD XI Reduces Red Tape, Improves Services to Clients," February 20, 2024, <https://pia.gov.ph/news/dswd-xi-reduces-red-tape-improves-services-to-clients/>.

cutting back on red tape in the system should not be left to a case-to-case basis nor should it be handled differently by regional offices. To be truly effective, improvements must be standardized across the country.

To address the same, this bill seeks to streamline the process and reduce the excessive requirements needed to avail of the applicable government financial aid or assistance. Moreover, this bill seeks to utilize the *eGov Super App* or other digital systems to facilitate requests and processes for government financial aid or assistance.

By adopting a simplified and standardized requirements, we are streamlining access to government aid and assistance, and making the process more efficient.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental



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HOUSE BILL NO. 7880

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

AN ACT
SIMPLIFYING THE DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSING
GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AID OR ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Direkta at Agad sa Lingap at Interbensyon (DALI) Act”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy that the State shall prioritize the needs of the underprivileged and ensure that social services are accessible responsive, and equitable. Moreover, the state shall ensure that individuals and families in difficult situations are provided with timely and accessible financial assistance.

To this end, the State shall adopt measures to streamline procedures and remove excessive documentary requirements for availing aid and assistances from government agencies. This affirms the mandate of the State to service with utmost responsibility and efficiency.

Section. 3. Scope and Coverage. – This Act shall apply to all national and local government agencies and instrumentalities that provide medical, burial, and similar forms of financial assistance, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Section. 4. Standardized Requirements – To avail of immediate financial assistance, beneficiaries shall be required to submit only the following documents:

- a) Valid government-issued identification (ID);

- b) Billing statement from the hospital, clinic, funeral parlor, or other related service entities; and
- c) Original or certified true copy of a medical certificate or medical abstract with the date of issuance, complete name, signature, and license number of the attending physician, or death certificate issued by the hospital or the city/municipal health office, whichever is applicable.

Hospitals, clinics, and other authorized medical facilities issuing such medical certificates or medical abstracts shall, in coordination with the DOH, ensure that the abovementioned information is clearly indicated therein.

Where the request for assistance is made through a representative, such representative shall present an authorization letter duly signed by the beneficiary, or where the beneficiary is unable to sign due to age, illness, disability, or illiteracy, such other reasonable proof of authorization as may be prescribed by the implementing rules and regulations, together with a valid government issued ID of both the beneficiary and the representative.

The authorized representative must be a relative of the beneficiary within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, or a legal guardian: *Provided*, That no individual shall act as a representative for more than two (2) beneficiaries.

Section. 5. Digital Requests for Government Aid – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall be primarily tasked to develop and use the *eGov PH Super App* or other appropriate digital systems or platforms as may be prescribed in the implementing rules and regulations, as a mechanism for Filipinos to avail aid from government agencies. The online or mobile application shall be utilized to facilitate requests for medical, burial, and similar forms of financial assistance.

Section. 6. Streamlined Process. – All concerned government agencies shall process requests for assistance within the day, subject to availability of funds: *Provided*, That complete documentary requirements are submitted during official working hours.

Requests submitted on weekends, holidays, or outside official working hours shall be processed on the next working day.

Section. 7. Coordination with the Anti-Red Tape Authority. – The DSWD and all implementing agencies shall coordinate with the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) to ensure full compliance with Republic Act No. 9485, as amended by Republic Act No. 11032 or the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”.

They shall likewise coordinate and cooperate with ARTA to address complaints involving undue delays, excessive documentary requirements, or other forms of non-compliance with the provisions of this Act.

Section. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with ARTA, DOH, PCSO, PhilHealth, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

Section. 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions and parts hereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,