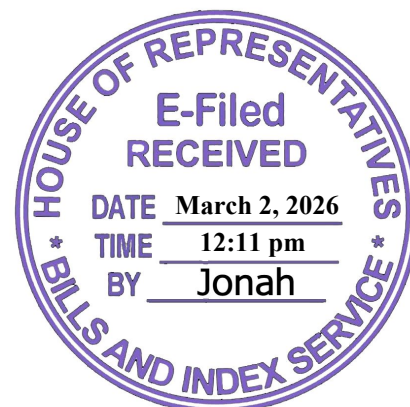




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **8191**

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SUAREZ, DAVID "JAYJAY" C., ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G., ADIONG, ZIA ALONTO, ALBA, JOSE MANUEL F., AQUINO, JOSE II "JOBOY" S., ARBISON, MUNIR, ARENAS, MA. RACHEL J., ASISTIO, DEAN, AUMENTADO, MARIA VANESSA C., BALINDONG, YASSER ALONTO, BARONDA, JULIENNE "JAM", CAGAS, JOHN TRACY F., CALIXTO, ANTONINO G., CASTRO, JANE T., CHUA, JOEL R., CORVERA, DALE B., CRUZ, AGAY, CRUZADO, EDWIN L., DEGAMO, JANICE V., DIMAPORO, SITTIE AMINAH Q., DIONISIO, ERNESTO JR. M., ESPINA, GERARDO "GERRYBOY" JR. J., GALANG, GERALD CLYOD ALEXIS, GALEOS, EDSSEL A., GARCIA, DANTE S., GARIN, JANETTE L., GONZALES, ALYSSA MICHAELA "MICA" M., GORRICETA, KATHY, KHO, WILTON "TONTON" T., KHONGHUN, JEFFERSON F., LABADLABAD, AI, LAGON, DAPHNE A., LARA, JOSEPH "JOJO" L., MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, GLORIA, MASTURA, BAI DIMPLE I., MATUGAS, LALO, OLIVAREZ, ERIC, ORTEGA, FRANCISCO PAOLO V P., OUANO-DIZON, EMMARIE "LOLYPOP", PANALIGAN, ARNAN C., PANOTES, ROSEMARIE C., PASCUAL, EMERSON D., PLEYTO, SALVADOR A., PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, MARLYN L., RAMA, EDUARDO R., ROMAN, TONY,, ROMUALDO, JURDIN JESUS M., SAGARBARRIA, MA. ISABEL "MAISA" L., SAKALURAN, RUTH, SALCEDA, ADRIAN, SALVACION, REYNALDO, SANTOS, MA. ALANA SAMANTHA T., SOLON, STEVE CHIONGBIAN, SUAN, LORDAN G., TAN, JOSEPH S. , TIENG, IRWIN C., TUAN, DIBU S., TUPAS, BINKY, TUTOR, KRISTINE ALEXIE B., UY, DE CARLO "OYO", UY, ROBERTO "PINPIN" JR., VARGAS-ALFONSO, BABY ALINE, VARGAS, PATRICK MICHAEL D., YAP, CHRISTOPHERSON M., YAP, ERIC GO, YU, JOSEPH KIM, YULO, EMILIO BERNARDINO L., BERNOS, JB, DAYANGHIRANG, NELSON JR., FLORES, JONATHAN KEITH T., ARBISON, MUNIR "ABDULMUNIR" M., CHUA, JOEL R., DOMOGAN, MAURICIO G., KHO, ELISA "OLGA" T., KHO, ANTONIO T.

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE ELECTRICITY LIFELINE RATE TO MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS AND INSTITUTIONALIZING AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT FOR

QUALIFIED MARGINALIZED END-USERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 73 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote social justice in all phases of national development by reducing social, economic, and political inequalities and removing inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and power for the common good. Access to electricity is indispensable to human dignity, public health, education, safety, and economic participation. It is for this reason that Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA), established the lifeline rate as a socialized pricing mechanism for marginalized electricity consumers.

Republic Act No. 11552 strengthened the lifeline rate framework and provided a longer-term policy basis for extending this social protection mechanism. Yet despite the existence of the lifeline rate program, the country has experienced a persistent implementation gap. Government reports have shown that while around 4.5 million households were identified as eligible beneficiaries (primarily through the 4Ps registry), only a small fraction were actually registered with distribution utilities, meaning that many intended beneficiaries did not receive the discount in practice.¹ This highlights a structural problem: where the benefit depends on beneficiary-initiated registration or documentation, the poorest households—especially those in remote areas—are the most likely to be excluded.

Recent Executive reforms in early 2026 validated the need to shift away from manual, beneficiary-driven processes. Through Joint Resolution No. 1, Series of 2026 (and related implementing measures), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) moved toward automatic registration of qualified 4Ps beneficiaries for the lifeline program, subject to data matching with distribution utilities, with manual processes retained only as a fallback for substantial mismatches.² In the same reform period, government issuances also pointed to a uniform national lifeline consumption threshold of 0–50 kWh, with qualified beneficiaries within this level entitled to a 100% discount on applicable electricity charges, while allowing existing higher-threshold structures to continue for higher consumption levels where already approved.³ These reforms are important progress, but as executive issuances, they remain vulnerable to policy reversal, uneven implementation, or shifting administrative priorities.

¹ DOE report on the lifeline program implementation gap (eligible households vs. registered households). <https://doe.gov.ph/articles/2876001--doe-intensifies-collaboration-to-expand-access-to-the-lifeline-rate-program>

² Executive shift to automatic registration for qualified 4Ps beneficiaries under the supplementary framework / joint action by DOE-DSWD-ERC. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/974782/doe-dswd-erc-issue-reso-for-automatic-registration-of-4ps-beneficiaries-in-power-discount-program/story/>

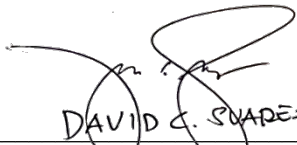
³ DSWD statement on uniform national lifeline consumption threshold (0–50 kWh) and 100% discount for qualified 4Ps households within threshold. <https://www.dswd.gov.ph/dswd-doe-erc-institutionalize-automatic-lifeline-rate-enrollment-for-qualified-4ps-households/>

This bill—**part of the broader Ginhawa K.I.T. (Kuryente–Internet–Trabaho) reform package**—seeks to make electricity bill relief both more durable and more inclusive. *First*, it institutionalizes the “automatic, not opt-in” principle by requiring distribution utilities to apply the lifeline rate automatically to qualified marginalized end-users, subject to secure eligibility matching, account tagging, and anti-leakage safeguards to be defined in the implementing rules and regulations. It anchors identification of qualified marginalized end-users on the DSWD’s official poverty targeting registry, derived from or validated using data under the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) pursuant to Republic Act No. 11315, with the most recent NHTS-PR/Listahanan and other officially adopted DSWD registries available during the transition period.⁴

Second—and as the bill’s major expansion—this measure extends meaningful monthly relief to **all Minimum Wage Earners by granting them a uniform fifty percent (50%) discount on applicable electricity charges for their household’s principal residence**. Millions of Filipino workers receive minimum wage and still struggle with rising cost-of-living pressures. Reducing their monthly electricity burden increases take-home resources available for food, transport, education, health, and basic household needs—supporting productivity, improving well-being, and strengthening household spending in the local economy. This recognizes a reality often felt by ordinary families: many households who are not classified as 4Ps beneficiaries still struggle with rising cost-of-living pressures despite being employed. Recent government reporting on wage orders indicates that minimum wage adjustments affect millions of workers, underscoring the scale of households that may be economically vulnerable even while working.⁵

Finally, this measure strengthens accountability by requiring robust guardrails: one-account safeguards, principal-residence limitations, verification standards, periodic revalidation, clear grievance and correction mechanisms, and penalties for misrepresentation. These safeguards ensure that relief is targeted, auditable, and protected from abuse—while remaining accessible to the very families the law intends to help.

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



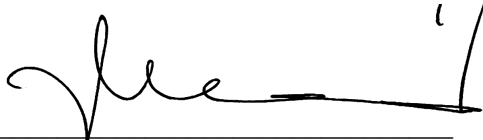
DAVID C. SUAREZ
SUAREZ, DAVID “JAY-JAY” C.
2nd District of Quezon



ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN
G.
1st District of Leyte

⁴ DSWD statement that Listahanan will end, with CBMS implementation beginning 2024. <https://old.dswd.gov.ph/listahanan-to-end-this-year-with-cbms-implementation-in-2024-sec-gatchalian/>

⁵ DOLE wage order reporting indicating wage adjustments affecting millions of workers (useful proxy for scale of minimum-wage-covered workers). <https://pia.gov.ph/press-release/five-million-workers-reap-benefits-from-pbbms-wage-hike-directive/>



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1st District of Lanao del Sur



AQUINO, JOSE "JOBOY" S. II
Lone District of Butuan City



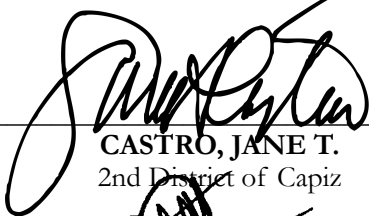
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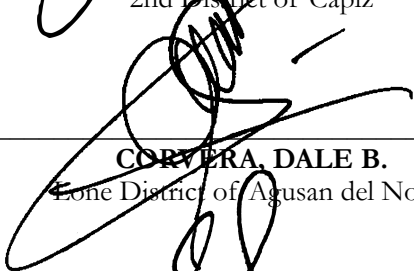
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CAGAS, JOHN TRACY F.
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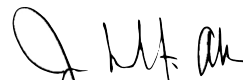


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Lone District of Agusan del Norte

CRUZADO, EDWIN
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2nd District of Lanao del Norte



ALBA, JOSE MANUEL F.
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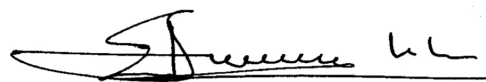
ARENAS, MARIA RACHEL J.
3rd District of Pangasinan



AUMENTADO, MARIA VANESSA C.
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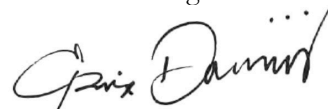
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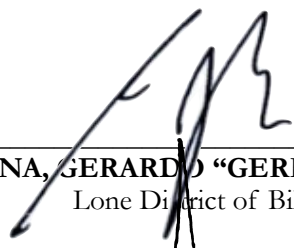
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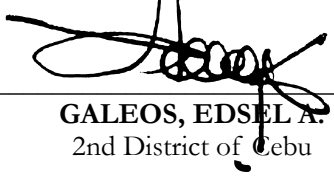
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DIONISIO, ERNESTO "ERNIX" M., JR.
1st District of Manila



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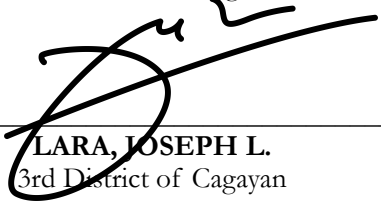
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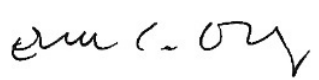
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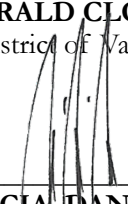
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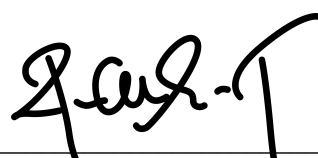
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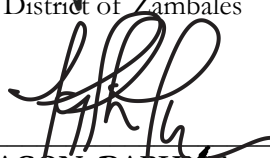
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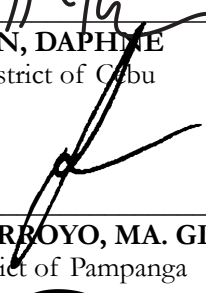
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LAGON, DAPHNE
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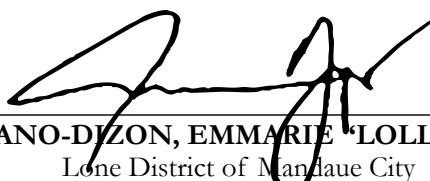
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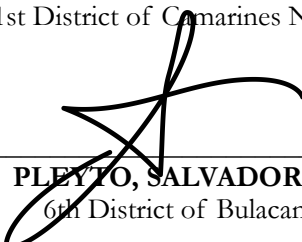
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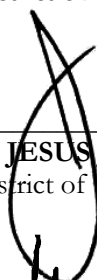
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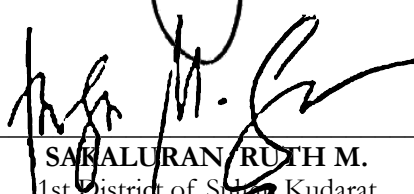
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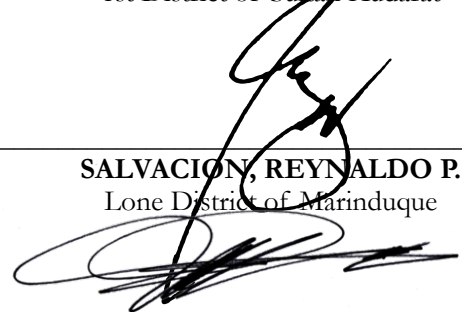
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Lone District of Camiguin



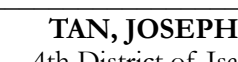
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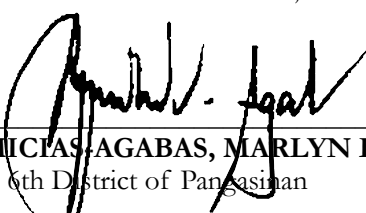
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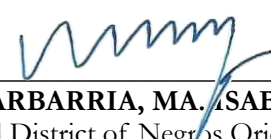
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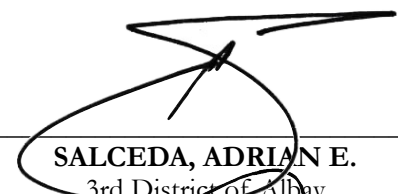
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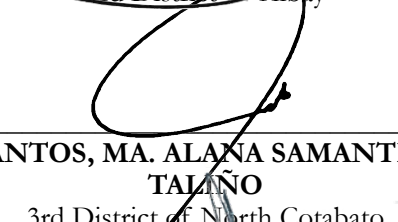
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2nd District of Negros Oriental



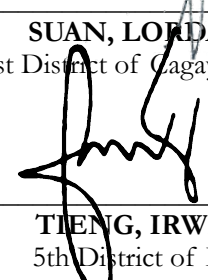
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5th District of Manila



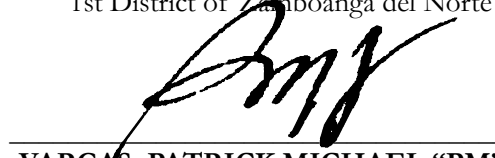
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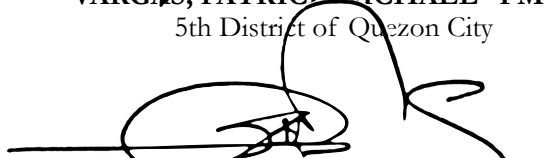
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UY, ROBERTO "PINEN" T., JR.
1st District of Zamboanga del Norte



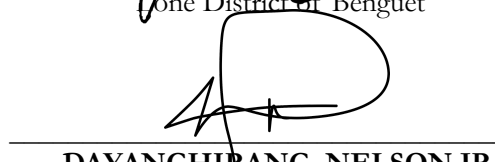
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YAP, ERIC G.
Lone District of Benguet



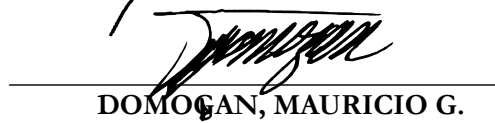
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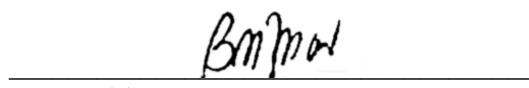
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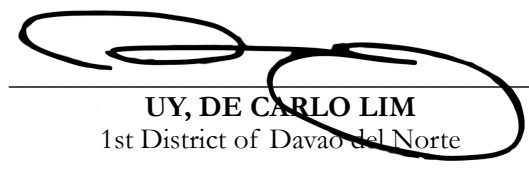
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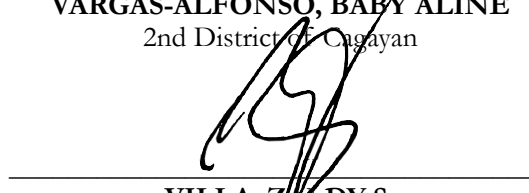
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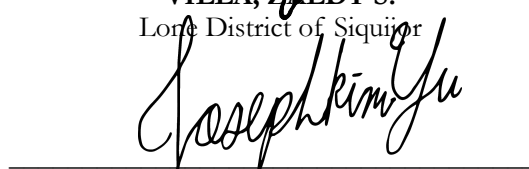
UY, DE CARLO LIM
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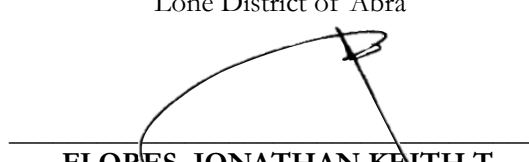
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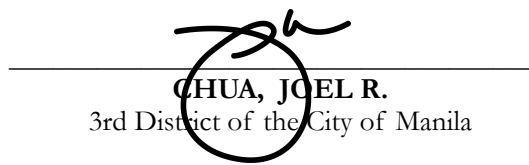
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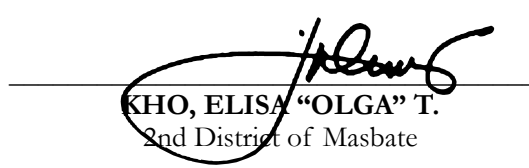
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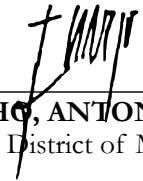
FLORES, JONATHAN KEITH T.
2nd District of Bukidnon



CHUA, JOEL R.
3rd District of the City of Manila



KHO, ELISA "OLGA" T.
2nd District of Masbate



KHC, ANTONIO T.
3rd District of Masbate



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8191**

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SUAREZ, DAVID "JAYJAY" C., ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G., ADIONG, ZIA ALONTO, ALBA, JOSE MANUEL F., AQUINO, JOSE II "JOBOY" S., ARBISON, MUNIR, ARENAS, MA. RACHEL J., ASISTIO, DEAN, AUMENTADO, MARIA VANESSA C., BALINDONG, YASSER ALONTO, BARONDA, JULIENNE "JAM", CAGAS, JOHN TRACY F., CALIXTO, ANTONINO G., CASTRO, JANE T., CHUA, JOEL R., CORVERA, DALE B., CRUZ, AGAY, CRUZADO, EDWIN L., DEGAMO, JANICE V., DIMAPORO, SITTIE AMINAH Q., DIONISIO, ERNESTO JR. M., ESPINA, GERARDO "GERRYBOY" JR. J., GALANG, GERALD CLYOD ALEXIS, GALEOS, EDSSEL A., GARCIA, DANTE S., GARIN, JANETTE L., GONZALES, ALYSSA MICHAELA "MICA" M., GORRICETA, KATHY, KHO, WILTON "TONTON" T., KHONGHUN, JEFFERSON F., LABADLABAD, AI, LAGON, DAPHNE A., LARA, JOSEPH "JOJO" L., MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, GLORIA, MASTURA, BAI DIMPLE I., MATUGAS, LALO, OLIVAREZ, ERIC, ORTEGA, FRANCISCO PAOLO V P., OUANO-DIZON, EMMARIE "LOLYPOP", PANALIGAN, ARNAN C., PANOTES, ROSEMARIE C., PASCUAL, EMERSON D., PLEYTO, SALVADOR A., PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, MARLYN L., RAMA, EDUARDO R., ROMAN, TONY,, ROMUALDO, JURDIN JESUS M., SAGARBARRIA, MA. ISABEL "MAISA" L., SAKALURAN, RUTH, SALCEDA, ADRIAN, SALVACION, REYNALDO, SANTOS, MA. ALANA SAMANTHA T., SOLON, STEVE CHIONGBIAN, SUAN, LORDAN G., TAN, JOSEPH S. , TIENG, IRWIN C., TUAN, DIBU S., TUPAS, BINKY, TUTOR, KRISTINE ALEXIE B., UY, DE CARLO "OYO", UY, ROBERTO "PINPIN" JR., VARGAS-ALFONSO, BABY ALINE, VARGAS, PATRICK MICHAEL D., YAP, CHRISTOPHERSON M., YAP, ERIC GO, YU, JOSEPH KIM, YULO, EMILIO BERNARDINO L., BERNOS, JB, DAYANGHIRANG, NELSON JR., FLORES, JONATHAN KEITH T., ARBISON, MUNIR "ABDULMUNIR" M., CHUA, JOEL R., DOMOGAN, MAURICIO G., KHO, ELISA "OLGA" T., KHO, ANTONIO T.

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE ELECTRICITY LIFELINE RATE TO MINIMUM WAGE
EARNERS AND INSTITUTIONALIZING AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT FOR
QUALIFIED MARGINALIZED END-USERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 73 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, AS AMENDED, 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 "**Ginhawa sa Kuryente Act.**"

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order thereby uplifting its citizens and marginalized sectors from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

The State recognizes that access to electricity is indispensable to human dignity, public health, education, and economic participation, and shall therefore ensure that these essential utilities are available, reliable, and affordable to every Filipino household, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

Consistent with the constitutional commitment to social justice and equality, the State shall pursue measures that reduce social and economic inequities by diffusing access to opportunities and modern services, especially in rural and underprivileged communities.

Section 3. *Definition of terms.* – As used in this Act:

- (a) “**Lifeline Rate**” refers to the socialized pricing mechanism for electricity consumers under Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9136, as amended, in the form of discounts determined by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) after due notice and hearing.
- (b) “**Qualified Marginalized End-Users**” refer to households qualified under Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9136, as amended.
- (c) “**Minimum Wage Earner (MWE)**” refers to a worker whose wage rate is at or below the applicable statutory minimum wage under wage orders issued by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPBs), or such lawful successor wage-setting issuances, as may be applicable.
- (d) “**Principal Residence**” refers to the dwelling where the beneficiary household ordinarily resides and which corresponds to a single residential electricity service account actually used for household consumption, as further defined in the implementing rules and regulations.
- (e) “**Automatic Application**” refers to the process by which lifeline rate discounts are applied to eligible service accounts through secure eligibility matching and account tagging, without requiring the beneficiary to file an individual application, except in cases of failed matching, disputed eligibility, or other exception cases as may be provided in the implementing rules and regulations.

- (f) “**DSWD Official Poverty Targeting Registry**” refers to the official household registry maintained or issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for identifying beneficiaries of poverty-targeted social protection programs, derived from or validated using data under the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) pursuant to Republic Act No. 11315 and related issuances, and, during transition, the most recent National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) or Listahanan and such other DSWD registries officially adopted for social protection targeting.
- (g) “**Minimum Necessary Data Set**” refers to the least amount of information required to implement eligibility matching and account tagging for automatic application, consistent with Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act of 2012), its implementing rules, and applicable issuances.
- (h) “**Anti-Leakage Safeguards**” refer to controls and procedures designed to prevent improper inclusion, duplicate availment, fraud, or non-residential use of benefits under this Act, as further detailed in the implementing rules and regulations.

Section 4. *Amendment to EPIRA.* – Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001," as amended by Republic Act No. 11552, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 73. Lifeline Rate. – In order to provide assistance to electricity consumers, especially those living below the poverty line, and to achieve a more equitable distribution of the lifeline subsidy, a socialized pricing mechanism called a lifeline rate for qualified marginalized end-users shall be set by the ERC which shall be exempted from the cross subsidy phase-out under this Act for a period of fifty (50) years, unless otherwise extended by law. The level of consumption, subsidy, and rate shall be determined by the ERC after due notice and hearing: Provided, That the ERC shall primarily utilize data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in the determination of the level of consumption.

PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT FOR QUALIFIED MARGINALIZED END-USERS UNDER PARAGRAPHS (A) AND (B) BELOW, WHOSE MONTHLY ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION DOES NOT EXCEED FIFTY (50) KILOWATT-HOURS, THE LIFELINE RATE SHALL INCLUDE A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) DISCOUNT ON APPLICABLE ELECTRICITY CHARGES, AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE ERC: PROVIDED, THAT NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL PREVENT THE ERC FROM SETTING AND APPROVING HIGHER DISCOUNT LEVELS FOR OTHER CONSUMPTION BANDS, CONSISTENT WITH LAW.

THE LIFELINE RATE SHALL BE APPLIED BY ALL DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES AUTOMATICALLY TO QUALIFIED MARGINALIZED END USERS, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ANY APPLICATION, REGISTRATION, OR BENEFICIARY-INITIATED CERTIFICATION, SUBJECT TO SECURE ELIGIBILITY MATCHING, ACCOUNT TAGGING,

AND ANTI-LEAKAGE SAFEGUARDS AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Qualified marginalized end-users shall refer to any of the following:

- (a) Qualified household beneficiaries under Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act," as regularly submitted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the DOE, the ERC, and the distribution utility, whose level of consumption shall be within the threshold determined by the ERC, are qualified marginalized end users under this Act;

~~[(b) Marginalized end users who have been certified and continually validated as such by their distribution utility based on a criteria determined by the ERC: Provided, That the criteria shall take into account, among others, the poverty threshold set by the PSA, and shall contain an exclusive list of requirements to be submitted to the distribution utility: Provided, further, That the exclusive list of requirements shall be simplified and reasonable for the applicant: Provided, furthermore, That the distribution utility shall act on the application for certification as a marginalized end user within two (2) working days from submission of complete documentary requirements: Provided, finally, That the distribution utility's action on the application shall be within ten (10) working days during the initial implementation of this Act.]~~

- (b) HOUSEHOLDS IDENTIFIED BY THE DSWD UNDER ITS OFFICIAL POVERTY TARGETING REGISTRY FOR POVERTY-TARGETED SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS, AS MAY BE APPLICABLE, WHOSE LEVEL OF CONSUMPTION SHALL BE WITHIN THE THRESHOLD DETERMINED BY THE ERC.

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE DSWD OFFICIAL POVERTY TARGETING REGISTRY SHALL BE DERIVED FROM OR VALIDATED USING DATA UNDER THE COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM (CBMS) PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11315 AND RELATED ISSUANCES: PROVIDED, THAT DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, THE MOST RECENT NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD TARGETING SYSTEM FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (NHTS-PR)/LISTAHANAN AND SUCH OTHER OFFICIAL DSWD REGISTRIES ADOPTED FOR POVERTY TARGETING MAY BE UTILIZED FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE SPECIFIC STANDARDS AND ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS FOR IDENTIFYING BENEFICIARIES FROM WITHIN THE CBMS DATA POOL SHALL BE PRESCRIBED IN THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.

- (c) MINIMUM WAGE EARNER HOUSEHOLDS. – HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE (1) MINIMUM WAGE EARNER, AS

DEFINED UNDER APPLICABLE WAGE ORDERS ISSUED BY THE REGIONAL TRIPARTITE WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY BOARDS (RTWPBS), SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A UNIFORM FIFTY PERCENT (50%) DISCOUNT ON APPLICABLE ELECTRICITY CHARGES FOR A SINGLE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE ACCOUNT CORRESPONDING TO THE HOUSEHOLD'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE, SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION, ANTI-LEAKAGE SAFEGUARDS, AND PERIODIC REVALIDATION AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.

FOR PURPOSES OF PARAGRAPH (C), THE ERC, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DOE, DOLE, NWPC, DSWD, PSA, NPC, AND DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES, SHALL PRESCRIBE A SIMPLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND AUDITABLE VERIFICATION MECHANISM THAT SHALL, AT A MINIMUM: (i) ENSURE ONE (1) BENEFIT PER HOUSEHOLD AND ONE (1) SERVICE ACCOUNT ONLY; (ii) LIMIT AVAILMENT TO RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS USED FOR A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE; (iii) PROVIDE FOR TIME-BOUND ELIGIBILITY VALIDITY WITH PERIODIC REVALIDATION; (iv) PROVIDE FOR A GRIEVANCE AND CORRECTION PROCESS; AND (v) PROVIDE FOR FRAUD PREVENTION AND PENALTIES FOR MISREPRESENTATION.

All qualified marginalized end-users shall continually meet the criteria in this Act to avail of the lifeline rate.

The ERC shall promulgate rules and guidelines for qualified marginalized end-users whose meters or service connections are not registered in their name. **SUCH RULES SHALL INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, MEASURES TO PREVENT EXCLUSION DUE TO RENTAL ARRANGEMENTS, SHARED CONNECTIONS, OR NON-TITLED SERVICE ACCOUNTS, AS WELL AS A CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE GRIEVANCE AND CORRECTION MECHANISM.**

The ERC shall submit to the Joint Congressional Energy Commission an annual report on the implementation of the lifeline rate. To achieve the objective of providing assistance to electricity consumers especially those living below the poverty line and ensure a more equitable distribution of the lifeline subsidy, the ERC shall conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of its implementation every two (2) years to include modes of validation and prevention of leakages. **THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, COVERAGE AND UPTAKE DATA BY BENEFICIARY CATEGORY, THE STATUS OF AUTOMATIC APPLICATION, THE NUMBER AND RATE OF MATCH FAILURES AND RESOLUTIONS, THE NUMBER OF MWE ACCOUNTS GRANTED THE DISCOUNT UNDER PARAGRAPH (C), AND SUCH OTHER IMPLEMENTATION METRICS AS**

MAY BE NECESSARY TO ASSESS INCLUSION, LEAKAGE, AND PROGRAM INTEGRITY.”

Section 5. *Guardrails and Safeguards for Minimum Wage Earner Discount.* – To strengthen program integrity and prevent leakage for the MWE discount under Section 73(c), the implementing rules and regulations shall include, at a minimum, the following safeguards:

(a) **One Household–One Account Rule.** – Availment shall be limited to one (1) residential service account corresponding to the household’s principal residence.

(b) **Principal Residence and Residential Use.** – Availment shall be limited to residential service accounts and shall not apply to commercial, industrial, or mixed-use accounts, except as may be allowed under strict criteria to cover home-based arrangements that are essentially residential, as may be defined in the IRR.

(c) **Non-Transferability.** – The benefit shall be non-transferable and shall not be traded, assigned, or used to cover an account other than that approved for the household’s principal residence.

(d) **Verification Standards.** – Verification shall be designed to be simple and accessible, while being auditable. The IRR may provide for employer certification, basic payroll or payslip proof, or other official verification sources consistent with law, with special provisions for workers without regular documentation.

(e) **Periodic Revalidation.** – Eligibility shall be time-bound and subject to periodic revalidation to confirm continuing MWE status, as may be provided in the IRR.

(f) **Anti-Fraud and Penalties.** – The IRR shall include penalties and disqualification rules for misrepresentation, fraud, or manipulation, without prejudice to applicable civil, administrative, or criminal liabilities under existing laws.

(g) **Grievance and Correction.** – A clear process shall be established to address denial, exclusion, account-tagging disputes, and correction of records, with response timelines and escalation paths.

(a) Validation: DUs are primarily responsible for initial data matching and validating minor discrepancies to achieve a 100% match.

(b) Rectification: Unrectified minor discrepancies and substantial mismatches (e.g., different birthdates) shall be reported to the ERC for endorsement to the DSWD for rectification.

(c) Manual Backup: Beneficiaries who fail automatic registration due to substantial discrepancies retain the right to manual registration.

Section 6. *Inter-Agency Committee.* – To ensure the proper, efficient, and timely implementation of the provisions of this Act, there is hereby created an Inter-Agency

Monitoring and Oversight Committee on Electricity Bill Relief and Automatic Lifeline Application (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”), which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – Chairperson
- (b) The Chairperson of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) – Co-Chairperson
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) – Co-Chairperson
- (d) The Chairperson of the National Privacy Commission (NPC) – Member
- (e) A representative from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) - Member
- (f) A representative from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – Member
- (g) A representative from the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) – Member
- (h) A representative from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) – Member
- (i) One (1) representative from an accredited national organization of distribution utilities – Member
- (j) Two (2) representatives from civil society organizations – Members

The Committee shall have the following functions:

- (1) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of automatic lifeline application for qualified marginalized end-users, including coverage, match rates, exclusion errors, correction outcomes, and anti-leakage controls;
- (2) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Minimum Wage Earner electricity discount, including verification mechanisms, uptake, duplication risks, fraud patterns, and corrective actions;
- (3) Oversee compliance of implementing agencies, service providers, and regulatory bodies with the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations;
- (4) Ensure accurate and timely data sharing among implementing entities, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act of 2012) and issuances of the NPC, including adoption of a Minimum Necessary Data Set;
- (5) Recommend amendments to policies, procedures, and regulatory rules to improve implementation, prevent leakage, and strengthen inclusion;

- (6) Establish and oversee a grievance redress and correction mechanism, in coordination with the DSWD and the ERC, to address complaints regarding exclusion, incorrect billing, verification disputes, or non-compliance by service providers;
- (7) Conduct or cause the conduct of periodic audits, either directly or through designated agencies, to verify compliance and accuracy of benefit application; and
- (8) Submit an annual report to Congress on the status of implementation, including the number of beneficiary households or accounts served per utility, geographic distribution, fiscal/financial impact indicators, inclusion and leakage metrics, and issues encountered.

The Committee shall convene within **sixty (60) days** from the effectivity of this Act and shall meet at least quarterly or as often as may be necessary. The Committee shall be provided with sufficient technical and administrative support from the member agencies. The initial funding necessary for the operationalization of the Committee shall be charged against the current appropriations of the member agencies, and shall be included in their respective budgets in the succeeding years.

Section 7. *Data Privacy.* – All processing and transfer of data under this Act, including the Minimum Necessary Data Set and any verification-related information, shall strictly adhere to Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act of 2012), its implementing rules, and applicable issuances of the National Privacy Commission.

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the ERC, in consultation with the DOE, DSWD, DOLE, NWPC, PSA, NPC, and the National Electrification Administration (NEA), shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the amended lifeline rate, including the MWE discount under Section 73(c), ensuring harmonization with existing lifeline program frameworks and relevant Executive issuances.

Section 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

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

Section 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,