

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 8653**



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Introduced by **REP. JEFFERSON F. KHONGHUN**

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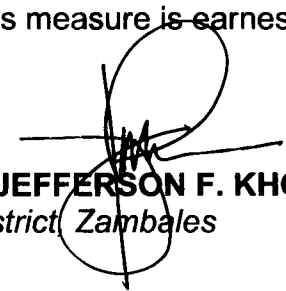
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines is experiencing extraordinary increases in fuel prices, driven by global market volatility and supply disruptions. These unprecedented spikes have cascaded into higher costs of food, transport, and other basic commodities, severely burdening Filipino households, commuters, farmers, fisherfolk, and public utility vehicle drivers. The sharp rise in living expenses has eroded purchasing power, strained family budgets, and placed vulnerable sectors at risk of deeper poverty and economic insecurity.

The proposed Emergency Cost of Living Relief Act seeks to provide immediate and responsive support to those most affected by fuel price shocks and inflationary pressures. Through fuel subsidies, direct cash transfers, and strengthened price monitoring, the measure aims to ease the daily burden on low-income households, stabilize transport and food costs, and protect the welfare of sectors critical to the nation's food supply and mobility.

By delivering timely relief during periods of extraordinary economic stress, this Act ensures that Filipino families, workers, and communities are supported in meeting their basic needs, while preserving social stability and promoting economic resilience.

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

  
**Rep. JEFFERSON F. KHONGHUN**  
*1<sup>st</sup> District, Zambales*

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF TO FILIPINO HOUSEHOLDS AND**  
**VULNERABLE SECTORS DURING EXTRAORDINARY FUEL PRICE SPIKES AND**  
**INFLATIONARY SHOCKS, ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR**  
**IMPLEMENTATION, FUNDING, AND REVIEW, 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 the “*Emergency Cost of Living Relief Act.*”

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State, consistent with Article II, Sections 9 and 10 of the Constitution, to promote social justice, protect Filipino households, and ensure equitable access to basic necessities. In times of extraordinary fuel price increases, inflationary shocks, or global supply disruptions, the State shall provide temporary relief measures to safeguard vulnerable sectors, while maintaining fiscal responsibility and respecting contractual and legal obligations.

**SEC. 3. Coverage and Beneficiaries.** – Emergency assistance under this Act shall be extended to:

1. Low-income households listed under the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
2. Public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators duly registered with the Department of Transportation (DOTr);
3. Farmers and fisherfolk duly registered with the Department of Agriculture (DA);  
and
4. Other sectors as may be determined by the President, upon recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), to be severely affected by fuel price shocks and inflation.

**SEC. 4. *Emergency Assistance Measures.*** – During periods of officially declared economic emergency, the government shall implement the following:

1. **Fuel Subsidy Program.** – Targeted fuel subsidies shall be provided to public transport drivers, farmers, and fisherfolk to offset the impact of rising fuel costs. The subsidy amount shall be determined annually by the Department of Energy (DOE), in coordination with the DOTr and DA, subject to fiscal sustainability.
2. **Cash Assistance Program.** – Qualified low-income households shall receive direct cash assistance to mitigate increased food and transportation costs. The program shall be administered by the DSWD, using digital payments, cash cards, or other secure government-approved financial channels.
3. **Price Monitoring and Stabilization.** – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall strengthen price monitoring mechanisms to prevent profiteering and unjustified increases in the prices of basic goods and commodities. Temporary price ceilings on essential commodities may be imposed strictly during the declared Relief Period, consistent with the Constitution and the Price Act (RA 7581), and subject to safeguards against hoarding and artificial shortages.

**SEC. 5. *Declaration of Economic Relief Period.*** – The President of the Philippines may declare an *Emergency Cost of Living Relief Period* upon recommendation of NEDA, when any of the following are met:

1. Global oil prices exceed a specified threshold, as recommended by the Department of Energy;
2. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reports headline inflation exceeding 6% for two (2) consecutive quarters; or
3. Other global economic disruptions, as certified by NEDA, threaten national economic stability.

**SEC. 6. *Inter-Agency Coordination.*** – The following agencies shall coordinate in the implementation of this Act:

1. Department of Social Welfare and Development;
2. Department of Energy;
3. Department of Transportation;
4. Department of Agriculture;
5. Department of Trade and Industry; and
6. National Economic and Development Authority.

These agencies shall jointly promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 7. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against available appropriations of the national government. To ensure sustainability, the program shall be funded by earmarking incremental Value

Added Tax (VAT) revenues collected from fuel imports and sales during periods of extraordinary price increases, which shall be automatically appropriated for the relief measures herein provided.

**SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the implementing agencies shall promulgate the necessary IRR for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

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

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

*Approved,*