



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Manila



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8816**

Introduced by **Hon. Janice V. Degamo**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The recent declaration of a national energy emergency and the continuing rise in oil and electricity prices threaten to impose severe financial hardship on Filipino households and small businesses. Sudden increases in the cost of electricity place vulnerable consumers at risk of service disconnection at a time when access to power is essential for daily living, livelihood, education, and public welfare.

This measure seeks to provide immediate but temporary relief by granting a thirty (30)-day grace period for the payment of electric bills of lifeline consumers, low-income households, and MSMEs during a declared national energy emergency. It likewise prohibits disconnection during the grace period and bars the imposition of interest, penalties, and similar charges. To make compliance manageable, unpaid bills may thereafter be settled in at least three (3) equal monthly installments without additional charges.

This bill does not condone nonpayment nor permanently waive lawful obligations. It merely affords consumers a humane and reasonable period within which to adjust to extraordinary price shocks during a national energy emergency.

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


JANICE V. DEGAMO



Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. **8816**

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AN ACT
GRANTING A TEMPORARY THIRTY (30) DAY GRACE PERIOD FOR
THE PAYMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC BILLS OF LIFELINE
CONSUMERS, LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS, AND MICRO, SMALL, AND
MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DURING A DECLARED NATIONAL ENERGY
EMERGENCY, PROHIBITING DISCONNECTION DURING THE GRACE
PERIOD, PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF INTEREST, PENALTIES, AND
OTHER CHARGES THEREON, 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 “Emergency Energy Relief Act of 2026.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect consumers, especially vulnerable households and micro, small, and medium enterprises, from sudden and severe increases in electricity costs during a declared national energy emergency. Toward this end, the State shall provide a temporary grace period for the payment of electric bills in order to prevent undue hardship, service interruption, and further economic distress.

SECTION 3. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to:

- a) Residential lifeline consumers;
- b) Low-income residential households, as may be identified under guidelines to be issued by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), in coordination with the Department of Energy

(DOE) and other appropriate agencies; and

- c) Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as defined under existing laws.

SECTION 4. Thirty Day Grace Period. - All electric distribution utilities, including electric cooperatives, shall grant covered consumers a minimum thirty (30) day grace period for the payment of electric bills falling due during the effectivity of a declared national energy emergency.

During the grace period, no interest, penalties, surcharges, fees, or other similar charges shall be imposed on the unpaid amount.

SECTION 5. Prohibition Against Disconnection. — No electrical distribution utility or electric cooperative shall disconnect the electric service of any covered consumer for nonpayment of electric bills falling due during the thirty (30) day grace period provided under this Act.

SECTION 6. Installment Payment. — Any unpaid electric bill covered by this Act shall, after the expiration of the grace period, be payable on a staggered basis of at least three equal monthly installments, without interest, penalties, surcharges, or additional charges.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). — Within fifteen (15) days from the effectivity of this Act, the ERC, in coordination with the DOE, the National Electrification Administration (NEA), and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any part or provision of this Act which shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspapers of general circulation.