

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8818**



Introduced by **Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to face rising fuel and electricity prices driven by global supply disruptions, geopolitical tensions, and dependence on imported energy. These increases have resulted in higher transport fares, elevated food prices, and increased cost of living, disproportionately affecting low-income and vulnerable sectors.

While long-term reforms under Republic Act No. 9513 aim to strengthen energy security, there is an urgent need for immediate and targeted government intervention during periods of crisis.

This bill establishes a Targeted Subsidy Program that shall be activated during a declared State of Energy Emergency or similar crisis, providing timely assistance in the form of fuel, electricity, and food subsidies to vulnerable sectors such as low-income households, transport workers, farmers, and fisherfolk.

The measure seeks to cushion the impact of energy price volatility, stabilize food supply, and ensure that essential services remain accessible and affordable. It also includes mechanisms for efficient targeting, transparent implementation, and periodic review to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

Ultimately, this bill aims to provide immediate relief to affected sectors while safeguarding public welfare during energy emergencies.

CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ

Representative
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AN ACT
PROVIDING TARGETED SUBSIDIES FOR FUEL, ELECTRICITY, AND FOOD
SECURITY TO VULNERABLE SECTORS DURING A DECLARED STATE OF
ENERGY EMERGENCY OR SIMILAR CRISIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “**Targeted Energy and Food Security Subsidy Act of 2026.**”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect vulnerable sectors from the impact of rising fuel, electricity, and food prices by providing targeted, time-bound, and transparent subsidies during a declared State of Energy Emergency or similar crisis, while promoting efficient use of energy and supporting long-term energy transition.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act:

- (a) “**State of Energy Emergency or Similar Crisis**” refers to a condition declared by the President, upon recommendation of the Department of Energy (DOE), characterized by extraordinary increases in fuel or electricity prices, supply shortages, or disruptions affecting national energy security;
- (b) “**Vulnerable Sectors**” include low-income households, public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators, farmers, fisherfolk, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs);
- (c) “**Targeted Subsidy**” refers to financial or in-kind assistance provided directly to identified beneficiaries through government systems.

SEC. 4. Establishment and Activation of the Targeted Subsidy Program. There is hereby established a Targeted Subsidy Program, which shall be automatically activated upon the declaration of a State of Energy Emergency or similar crisis, and shall remain in force for the duration of such declaration unless sooner lifted or extended by Congress.

SEC. 5. Fuel Subsidy. The government, through the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), and other relevant agencies, shall provide fuel subsidies to qualified beneficiaries, including PUV drivers, delivery riders, farmers, and fisherfolk, in the form of fuel vouchers, cash transfers, or digital payments, to mitigate the impact of rising fuel costs on transport and food production during the declared emergency.

SEC. 6. Electricity Subsidy. The government, in coordination with the Energy Regulatory Commission and distribution utilities, shall provide targeted electricity subsidies to low-income households during the declared emergency, including expansion of lifeline rates, direct bill credits, or subsidies reflected in monthly electricity bills to ensure affordability of basic energy consumption.

SEC. 7. Food Security Support. The government, through the Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and other relevant agencies, shall implement measures during the declared emergency to stabilize food supply and prices, including fuel support for agricultural production, transport assistance, buffer stocking of essential goods, and targeted food subsidies or assistance to vulnerable households.

SEC. 8. Targeting and Beneficiary Identification. The DSWD shall lead in the identification and validation of beneficiaries using existing social protection databases, including the Listahanan, in coordination with LGUs to ensure accurate and efficient targeting during the declared emergency.

SEC. 9. Mode of Distribution. Subsidies shall be distributed through digital payment platforms, fuel cards, or other secure and transparent mechanisms to ensure timely and efficient delivery of assistance during the declared emergency and to minimize leakages.

SEC. 10. Inter-Agency Coordination. The DOE shall serve as the lead coordinating agency, in collaboration with the DOTr, DA, DSWD, Department of Finance (DOF), and other concerned agencies, to ensure effective implementation of the Targeted Subsidy Program during the declared emergency.

SEC. 11. Mandatory Periodic Review. During the effectivity of the State of Energy Emergency or similar crisis, the Department of Energy, in coordination with all implementing agencies, shall conduct a mandatory review of the implementation, coverage, efficiency, and fiscal impact of the Targeted Subsidy Program every thirty (30) days. The DOE shall submit a consolidated report of such review to Congress, which shall include recommendations on the continuation, modification, expansion, or termination of the program, as well as data on beneficiaries reached, funds utilized, and program outcomes.

SEC. 12. Transparency and Accountability. All implementing agencies shall ensure transparency in the use of funds, including the publication of beneficiary lists, subsidy amounts, and program outcomes, subject to data privacy laws, and shall submit regular reports to Congress during the period of implementation.

SEC. 13. Funding. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from existing appropriations, savings, and such other funding sources as may be identified by the Department of Finance, including possible utilization of windfall revenues from the energy sector, for the duration of the declared emergency.

SEC. 14. Sunset Clause. The Targeted Subsidy Program shall automatically cease upon the lifting of the State of Energy Emergency or similar crisis, unless otherwise extended by Congress.

SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Within thirty (30) days from effectivity, the DOE, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

SEC. 16. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall not be affected.

SEC. 17. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, or issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,