

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9279



Introduced by Lone District of Agusan del Norte Representative
HON. DALE B. CORVERA

AN ACT
STREAMLINING ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE,
REDUCING DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS, AND EXPEDITING
PROCESSING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to promote the general welfare and ensure that social services are accessible, responsive, and equitable. This is reinforced by Republic Act No. 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, which directs government agencies to simplify procedures and eliminate unnecessary regulatory burdens.

Despite these mandates, access to government financial assistance remains difficult for many Filipinos, particularly indigent patients and families in crisis. Beneficiaries often spend several hours to an entire day lining up in offices such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and public hospitals under the Department of Health. In high-demand facilities, applicants may be required to return multiple times due to inconsistent or repetitive documentary requirements, extending the process to several days.

These conditions are consistent with findings of the Commission on Audit, which has repeatedly identified inefficiencies, documentary redundancies, and delays in service delivery.¹ Studies in Philippine public administration likewise highlight duplicative compliance requirements and procedural inconsistencies as systemic barriers.² The World Bank has similarly emphasized that excessive administrative requirements disproportionately burden low-income households by increasing both the time and cost of accessing public services.³

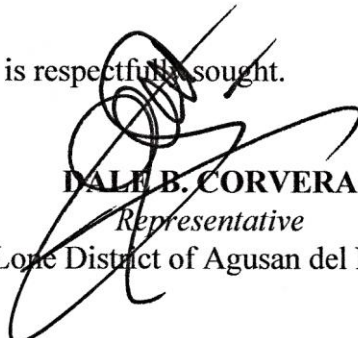
For indigent families, these delays impose real financial burdens. Applicants incur transportation expenses, food costs while waiting, and lost wages from time spent away from work. These indirect costs can significantly reduce the net benefit of assistance, particularly for daily wage earners.⁴ In medical cases, delays may also prolong hospitalization or defer treatment, increasing overall expenses.

At the same time, government financial assistance programs administered by agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office serve millions of Filipinos annually and involve substantial public resources. However, the process of access has not kept pace with the principles of efficiency and ease of doing business.

This bill seeks to address these challenges by establishing a streamlined and expedited framework for accessing government financial assistance. It standardizes documentary requirements, reduces unnecessary submissions, promotes digital access, enforces strict processing timelines, and strengthens coordination with the Anti-Red Tape Authority to ensure compliance.

This measure does not create new assistance programs but improves the delivery of existing ones by reducing administrative burdens and ensuring that assistance is delivered in a timely, efficient, and dignified manner.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is respectfully sought.



DALE B. CORVERA
Representative
Lone District of Agusan del Norte

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1. Commission on Audit, *Annual Audit Reports (various years)* – noting delays, inefficiencies, and documentation issues in government service delivery.
 2. Imasa, D.A. & Campos, K. (2024), *Issues in Philippine Public Procurement: A Content Analysis of COA Annual Audit Reports* – identifies recurring inefficiencies and compliance burdens.
 3. World Bank (2019–2023), *Governance and Service Delivery Reports* – highlights administrative burden and access costs for low-income populations.
 4. World Bank & Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), *studies on transaction costs in accessing social services and poverty-related service barriers*.

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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 “*Streamlined and Expedited Access to Government Financial Assistance Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to promote the general welfare by ensuring that individuals and families in difficult circumstances are provided timely, accessible, and efficient financial assistance. To this end, the State shall:

- (a) Simplify and standardize documentary requirements;
- (b) Streamline procedures across agencies and local government units;
- (c) Eliminate redundant and excessive requirements; and
- (d) Ensure responsive, equitable, and humane delivery of public assistance.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* This Act shall apply to all national government agencies, local government units, and government instrumentalities providing medical, burial, housing, and other crisis-related financial assistance, including but not limited to:

1. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
2. Department of Health (DOH)
3. Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)
4. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)
5. National Housing Authority (NHA)
6. Other agencies implementing similar assistance programs

SEC. 4. *Standardized Minimum Documentary Requirements.* To avail of financial assistance, beneficiaries shall only be required to submit the following:

- (a) Valid government-issued identification (ID); *Provided,* That where the beneficiary is unable to present a valid ID due to poverty, displacement, illness, disability, or similar circumstances, alternative proof of identity such as a barangay certification shall be accepted;
- (b) Billing statement from the hospital, clinic, funeral parlor, or relevant service provider;

- (c) Either medical certificate or medical abstract issued by a licensed physician or death certificate, where applicable.

No government agency shall require additional documentary requirements beyond those provided under this section, except for strictly necessary and program-specific requirements as may be defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

No document shall be required if the information may be obtained from existing government records or databases.

SEC. 5. *Representation and Authorization.* Requests for assistance may be filed through an authorized representative subject to the following:

- (a) Submission of an authorization letter or equivalent proof;
- (b) Presentation of valid IDs of both the beneficiary and the representative;
- (c) The representative must be a relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, or a legal guardian; and
- (d) No individual shall act as a representative for more than two (2) beneficiaries to whom they are not related.

SEC. 6. *Digital Access and Application System.* The Department of Information and Communications Technology shall develop and maintain a digital platform, including integration with the eGov PH Super App or similar systems to:

- (a) Facilitate online application for assistance;
- (b) Enable submission of documentary requirements;
- (c) Provide real-time tracking of application status; and
- (d) Issue notifications regarding approval, denial, or release of assistance.

All implementing agencies shall ensure interoperability and data-sharing, consistent with existing laws.

SEC. 7. *Streamlined Processing and Timelines.* All covered agencies shall process applications as follows:

- (a) Same-day processing for complete applications submitted during official working hours, where feasible; and
- (b) In all cases, processing shall not exceed three (3) working days from submission of complete requirements.

Processing shall include evaluation and approval or denial of the request.

SEC. 8. *Coordination and Oversight.* All implementing agencies shall coordinate with the Anti-Red Tape Authority to:

- (a) Ensure compliance with Republic Act No. 9485, as amended, and Republic Act No. 11032;
- (b) Monitor adherence to standardized requirements and processing timelines; and
- (c) Address complaints involving delays, excessive requirements, and non-compliance.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from effectivity, the DSWD, in coordination with ARTA, DOH, PCSO, PhilHealth, DICT, DILG, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* The implementation of this Act shall be funded through the existing appropriations of the concerned agencies.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,