



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9759

Introduced by Representative Maria Angela S. Garcia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 The State recognizes the need to improve the efficiency, objectivity,
2 transparency, and responsiveness of social welfare targeting and poverty identification
3 systems.

4 At present, indigency determination and eligibility assessment for social
5 protection programs largely depend on documentary certifications and localized
6 assessments conducted by barangays, local social welfare offices, hospitals, and
7 other government agencies. While these mechanisms remain important, there is a
8 need to strengthen evidence-based and data-informed approaches that may
9 supplement existing systems and improve the accuracy and timeliness of social
10 welfare delivery.

11 International development institutions and various socio-economic studies have
12 recognized household electricity consumption as a useful supplementary proxy
13 indicator of household welfare, deprivation, and economic vulnerability. Residential
14 electricity consumption patterns may provide measurable and objective indicators that
15 can support poverty mapping, proxy means testing, social registry validation, and
16 targeting of public assistance programs.

17 This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize an Integrated Household
18 Welfare Verification System that allows residential electricity consumption data to be
19 utilized as one of the supplementary proxy welfare indicators for social protection
20 programs, subsidy targeting, socio-economic planning, and public assistance
21 systems, including the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction
22 (Listahanan), the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), and the Medical
23 Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) Program of the
24 Department of Health.

25 The bill does not seek to replace existing welfare assessment systems nor
26 automatically classify households solely on the basis of electricity consumption.

27 Instead, it establishes a supplementary, evidence-based, and data-driven tool that
28 may assist government agencies in improving the targeting and delivery of social
29 protection services.

30 Recognizing the importance of statistical integrity and institutional coordination,
31 the bill assigns to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) the task of developing the
32 necessary statistical methodologies and survey instruments to integrate electricity
33 consumption data into official socio-economic and poverty assessment systems.

34 The bill likewise ensures full compliance with the Constitution, Republic Act No.
35 10173 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012," Republic Act No. 10625 or the "Philippine
36 Statistical Act of 2013," Republic Act No. 11315 or the "Community-Based Monitoring
37 System Act," and other applicable laws protecting confidentiality, lawful processing of
38 personal information, and due process rights.

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


MARIA ANGELA S. GARCIA
Third District, Bataan



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House Bill No. **9759**

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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD WELFARE VERIFICATION
SYSTEM UTILIZING RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION AS A
SUPPLEMENTARY PROXY WELFARE INDICATOR FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION,
POVERTY TARGETING, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AND HEALTH FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, STRENGTHENING DATA-DRIVEN SOCIAL
WELFARE GOVERNANCE, PROVIDING SAFEGUARDS FOR DATA PRIVACY
AND DUE PROCESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

39 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Integrated Household
40 Welfare Verification and Electricity Consumption Proxy Indicator Act."

41
42 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State
43 to:

44 (a) promote evidence-based, objective, and data-informed social welfare
45 targeting systems;

46 (b) strengthen the efficiency, integrity, and responsiveness of poverty
47 identification and social protection mechanisms;

48 (c) utilize measurable socio-economic indicators to supplement existing welfare
49 assessment systems;

50 (d) improve access of vulnerable households to social welfare, health, and public
51 assistance programs;

52 (e) enhance inter-agency coordination and statistical governance in poverty and
53 welfare assessments; and

(f) ensure that all data collection, sharing, and processing are undertaken in accordance with constitutional rights, data privacy laws, statistical confidentiality, and due process.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:

(a) "Residential electricity consumption" refers to household electric power usage measured through electric bills, metering systems, or consumption records maintained by distribution utilities or electric cooperatives;

(b) "Proxy welfare indicator" refers to a measurable variable used to estimate or supplement the assessment of household socio-economic conditions, poverty, vulnerability, or welfare status;

(c) "Integrated Household Welfare Verification System" refers to the system established under this Act utilizing supplementary proxy indicators, including residential electricity consumption, to support social welfare targeting and verification;

(d) "Listahanan" refers to the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction administered by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

(e) "Community-Based Monitoring System" or "CBMS" refers to the technology-based system of collecting, processing, and validating disaggregated data established under Republic Act No. 11315;

(f) "MAIFIP" refers to the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients Program of the Department of Health;

(g) "Distribution utility" shall have the same meaning as provided under Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001"; and

(h) "Social protection programs" refer to programs, subsidies, assistance, or benefits administered by government agencies intended for vulnerable, marginalized, disadvantaged, low-income, indigent, or financially incapacitated individuals and households.

SECTION 4. *Use of Residential Electricity Consumption as Supplementary Welfare Indicator.* — Residential electricity consumption data may be utilized as a supplementary proxy welfare indicator for purposes of:

(a) poverty mapping;

(b) socio-economic profiling;

(c) proxy means testing and household welfare assessment;

(d) validation, updating, and targeting under Listahanan, CBMS, and similar national or local social registry systems;

(e) targeting and prioritization of beneficiaries for social welfare, subsidy, livelihood, health, education, food security, housing, disaster assistance, and other public assistance programs, including the MAIFIP Program of the Department of Health;

(f) subsidy and assistance allocation; and

(g) evidence-based development planning.

Electricity consumption shall not be used as the sole basis for determining indigency, poverty status, financial incapacity, or eligibility for government assistance, but may be considered together with other socio-economic indicators, household assessments, and validation mechanisms prescribed by law or regulation.

SECTION 5. Role of the Philippine Statistics Authority. - The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), National Electrification Administration (NEA), distribution utilities, electric cooperatives, local government units, and other concerned agencies, shall:

(a) develop statistical methodologies and proxy means-testing models incorporating residential electricity consumption data;

(b) integrate appropriate electricity consumption variables into household socio-economic surveys, poverty assessments, and related statistical systems where practicable;

(c) establish consumption thresholds, classifications, and vulnerability indicators based on empirical and statistical analysis;

(d) conduct pilot studies, validation studies, and periodic assessments on the reliability and effectiveness of electricity consumption as a supplementary welfare indicator;

(e) formulate technical guidelines and protocols for lawful and secure data sharing; and

(f) ensure compliance with all confidentiality and statistical integrity requirements under existing laws.

SECTION 6. Data Sharing and Inter-Agency Coordination. — Government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, distribution utilities, electric cooperatives, and local government units may enter into data-sharing agreements strictly for purposes authorized under this Act, subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations governing confidentiality, data privacy, and lawful processing of personal information.

Only the minimum necessary data shall be collected and processed consistent with the principles of transparency, proportionality, legitimate purpose, and data minimization.

SECTION 7. *Data Privacy and Confidentiality.* — All personal information and household electricity consumption data processed pursuant to this Act shall be subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 or the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” Republic Act No. 10625 or the “Philippine Statistical Act of 2013,” Republic Act No. 11315 or the “Community-Based Monitoring System Act,” and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Unauthorized disclosure, unlawful processing, misuse, or unauthorized sharing of personal or household electricity consumption data shall be subject to the applicable civil, administrative, and criminal liabilities under existing laws.

SECTION 8. *Rights of Households and Beneficiaries.* — Households shall have the right to:

- (a) be informed regarding the lawful processing and use of their data;
- (b) access and correct inaccurate information where applicable;
- (c) contest or appeal welfare determinations in accordance with due process;
- and
- (d) avail of other rights provided under existing laws.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PSA, in coordination with the DSWD, DOH, DOE, ERC, NEA, National Privacy Commission, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.