

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
20TH Congress
House of Representatives
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10281

Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL
2nd District of Surigao del Sur

**AN ACT DECLARING PRICE GOUGING AND PROFITEERING ON BASIC
NECESSITIES DURING STATES OF CALAMITY AND NON-CALAMITY
PERIODS AS ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Existing price control laws primarily activate only during declared states of calamity, leaving consumers unprotected from opportunistic and excessive price increases that occur outside such declarations — for instance, artificial shortages engineered by hoarders and cartels during ordinary periods of high demand.

This bill closes that gap by defining price gouging and profiteering as an offense regardless of whether a calamity has been declared, imposing stiffer penalties, and empowering the Department of Trade and Industry to impose immediate administrative sanctions, including suspension of business permits, pending full prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,


REP. ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Price Gouging and
Profiteering Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State shall protect consumers
against undue and excessive pricing of basic necessities and prime commodities
at all times, not only during declared emergencies.

SECTION 3. Prohibited Acts. — It shall be unlawful for any person,
whether or not a state of calamity has been declared, to sell or offer for sale any
basic necessity or prime commodity at a price grossly in excess of its cost, or to
hoard such goods with intent to create an artificial shortage.

SECTION 4. Immediate Administrative Sanctions. — Upon verified report
or motu proprio investigation, the Department of Trade and Industry may
immediately suspend the business permit of an establishment found to be engaged
in price gouging or profiteering, without prejudice to criminal prosecution.

SECTION 5. Penalties. — Any person found guilty of price gouging or
profiteering under this Act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less
than five (5) years but not more than fifteen (15) years, and a fine of not less than
One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) but not more than Two Million
Pesos (Php2,000,000.00), at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 6. Consumer Hotline and Rapid Response. — The Department of Trade and Industry shall maintain a 24-hour hotline and rapid response teams in every province to receive and act on complaints of price gouging within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Trade and Industry shall issue implementing rules within sixty (60) days from effectivity.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in force.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, and issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.