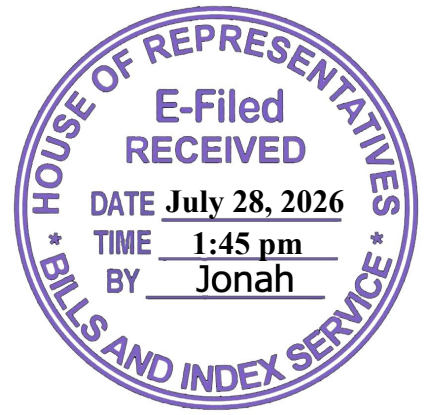


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
20TH Congress
House of Representatives
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10285

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

**AN ACT PROVIDING FUEL SUBSIDY AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO
MUNICIPAL AND SMALL-SCALE FISHERFOLK DURING PERIODS OF
FISHING BAN OR CLOSED SEASON AND HIGH FUEL PRICES, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Municipal and small-scale fisherfolk are among the poorest sectors of Philippine society, and their income is doubly threatened by rising fuel costs, which eat into the profitability of every fishing trip, and by closed fishing seasons imposed for conservation purposes, which halt their income entirely without adequate substitute support.

This bill provides a standing fuel subsidy for registered municipal fisherfolk and a temporary livelihood allowance during legally mandated closed seasons, recognizing that conservation policy should not be borne disproportionately by the poorest fishing families.

Respectfully submitted,


REP. ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Twentieth Congress, Second Regular Session

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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 "Fisherfolk Livelihood and Fuel Subsidy Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State shall protect the welfare of municipal and small-scale fisherfolk and ensure that conservation measures do not unduly burden them without corresponding support.

SECTION 3. Fuel Subsidy for Registered Fisherfolk. — Fisherfolk registered under the FishR system shall be entitled to a fuel subsidy or fuel discount card whenever prevailing diesel or gasoline prices increase by fifteen percent (15%) or more within a ninety (90)-day period, in the same manner provided for public utility vehicle drivers under existing law.

SECTION 4. Closed Season Livelihood Allowance. — During any legally declared closed fishing season or fishing ban, registered municipal fisherfolk affected thereby shall receive a livelihood allowance equivalent to the prevailing minimum wage in their region, for the duration of the closure, not to exceed four (4) months per year.

SECTION 5. Alternative Livelihood Support. — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), in coordination with local government units, shall provide alternative livelihood training and starter kits, such as aquaculture or handicraft-making, to affected fisherfolk during closed seasons.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. — The amount necessary shall be sourced from the annual budget of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, augmented as necessary through the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) 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.