



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11339



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A MAGINHAWANG BUHAY SUPPORT
FRAMEWORK FOR LOW- INCOME AND MIDDLE-CLASS
HOUSEHOLDS, PROVIDING A TWENTY PERCENT (20%)
DISCOUNT ON ESSENTIAL NEEDS INCLUDING BASIC UTILITIES,
HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND HOUSING, ESTABLISHING AN
INFLATION-RESPONSIVE AND INTEGRATED DELIVERY
MECHANISM, PROVIDING FOR BENEFIT CEILINGS, TARGETING,
FISCAL SAFEGUARDS, INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION,
TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CONGRESSIONAL
OVERSIGHT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In every economy, there is a quiet line that separates stability from vulnerability. It is the line where income, though earned honestly and steadily, is no longer enough to keep pace with the cost of living. For millions of Filipino families, particularly those in the low-income and middle-class sectors, that line has been crossed not because of idleness or failure, but because prices have risen faster than wages, and essential needs have become increasingly unaffordable.

Electricity, water, healthcare, education, and housing are not discretionary expenses. They are the fixed costs of dignity. When these become too expensive,

households are forced into painful trade-offs—between food and medicine, tuition and rent, work and care. Over time, these trade-offs accumulate into deeper inequality, poorer health outcomes, educational attrition, and economic fragility.

This proposed measure seeks to correct that imbalance by institutionalizing a Maginhawang Buhay Support Framework, grounded on the principle that every Filipino household is entitled to a basic social floor of economic security, regardless of income level, so long as they remain within the broad low-income and middle- class spectrum. In this sense, the measure draws from a universal income perspective—not by distributing cash, but by protecting real income at the point where it matters most: the price of essentials.

Persistent inflation in recent years has eroded household purchasing power, disproportionately affecting families whose incomes are fixed or slow-moving. While emergency subsidies and conditional assistance programs have provided temporary relief, these measures are often reactive, fragmented, and dependent on discretionary political action. Moreover, existing social protection mechanisms are largely targeted at the poorest households, leaving a growing segment of the middle class exposed—too “rich” to qualify for aid, yet too financially constrained to absorb rising costs.

This condition has created a silent crisis. Middle-income households increasingly rely on debt, reduce preventive healthcare, delay education, or accept substandard housing conditions. The long-term cost of these decisions is borne not only by families, but by the State itself, through higher healthcare expenditures, lower educational attainment, reduced productivity, and social instability.

There is therefore a clear need for a permanent, automatic, and inflation-responsive mechanism that stabilizes household welfare before economic stress turns into economic damage.

This bill establishes a Maginhawang Buhay Support Framework that grants qualified low-income and middle-class households a twenty percent (20%) discount on essential needs, specifically basic utilities, healthcare, education, and housing expenses. The discount is designed as a baseline social protection measure that operates continuously, rather than episodically.

The measure is carefully integrated with existing lifeline rates, PhilHealth benefits, free tuition and scholarship programs, and housing subsidies, ensuring that it supplements rather than replaces current entitlements. It introduces a national beneficiary registry, anchored on official statistics and interoperable government databases, to ensure accurate targeting, transparency, and protection against leakage.

Recognizing the cyclical nature of inflation, the bill further provides for an automatic, time-bound expansion of benefits when inflation breaches defined thresholds, thereby avoiding the delays and uncertainty of ad hoc emergency legislation.

To ensure fiscal sustainability, the measure adopts a cost-sharing mechanism with the private sector, requiring covered service providers to grant discounts upfront, while allowing reimbursement solely through tax credits and incentives, subject to fiscal ceilings, audit, and verification. No direct cash reimbursement is allowed, and no new or special appropriation is mandated.

Oversight is institutionalized through an inter-agency council attached to the Office of the President, supported by a permanent secretariat, and complemented by congressional oversight and sunset review provisions.

The immediate impact of this measure is the protection of real household income. By reducing the price of essentials, the bill functions as a form of universal income stabilization, ensuring that earned income retains its purchasing power even during inflationary periods. Unlike cash transfers, which may be inflationary, this approach directly lowers effective prices and moderates second-round inflation effects. Economically, the measure is expected to stabilize consumption, particularly among low- and middle-income households with high marginal propensity to spend. This sustains local demand, supports small and medium enterprises, and mitigates economic contraction during periods of price volatility.

Socially, the bill reduces the risk of preventable health crises, educational dropouts, housing insecurity, and debt accumulation. Over time, these effects translate into lower public health costs, higher educational completion rates, a more resilient workforce, and a broader tax base.

From a governance perspective, the measure shifts social protection from discretion to design—from reactive relief to automatic response—thereby strengthening public trust and policy credibility.

At its core, this measure affirms a simple but powerful idea: income is only meaningful if it can meet the cost of living. By institutionalizing a Maginhawang Buhay Support Framework, the State acknowledges that protecting dignity in times of economic stress is not charity, but responsibility.

This bill does not promise abundance. It promises stability. And in an economy shaped by uncertainty, stability is the foundation upon which opportunity, growth, and shared prosperity are built.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



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JUDE A. ACIDRE



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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 “Maginghawang Buhay Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote social justice, equity, shared prosperity, and household economic resilience, and to protect and enhance the purchasing power of Filipino

households, particularly those belonging to the low-income and economically vulnerable middle-class sectors.

The State recognizes that sustained inflationary pressures, rising costs of living, and economic shocks disproportionately burden households whose incomes are fixed, vulnerable, or gradually eroded by price increases.

The State further recognizes that access to essential goods and services, including basic utilities, healthcare, education, and housing, is indispensable to human dignity, family stability, economic mobility, and inclusive national development.

Accordingly, the State shall institutionalize a Maginhawang Buhay Support Framework that shall provide predictable, targeted, transparent, and fiscally responsible relief to qualified households.

Toward this end, the State shall:

- (a) protect households from excessive erosion of purchasing power;
- (b) prevent low-income and economically vulnerable middle-class households from falling into deeper poverty or financial distress;
- (c) integrate and harmonize existing subsidies, statutory discounts, and social protection programs;
- (d) establish an automatic, objective, and time-bound response to sustained inflation;
- (e) ensure that benefits are accurately targeted and subject to reasonable statutory ceilings;

- (f) prioritize poorer and more economically vulnerable households whenever fiscal resources are constrained;
- (g) minimize fraud, duplication, exclusion, and leakage through interoperable and secure government systems; and
- (h) ensure transparency, accountability, measurable outcomes, fiscal sustainability, and continuing congressional oversight.

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

- (a) **Annual Fiscal Envelope** refers to the maximum annual aggregate fiscal exposure authorized for implementation of this Act, including direct appropriations, authorized funding sources, and tax expenditures arising from reimbursements, credits, or other incentives granted hereunder;
- (b) **Annual Household Benefit Ceiling** refers to the maximum aggregate amount of Maginhawang Buhay benefits that may be availed of by a qualified household during a calendar year;
- (c) **Covered Service Providers** refers to public or private entities, utilities, institutions, facilities, schools, healthcare providers, housing providers, or establishments delivering essential needs covered under this Act;
- (d) **Eligible Net Amount** refers to the remaining amount actually payable by the qualified beneficiary after all applicable statutory discounts, exemptions, insurance benefits, subsidies, vouchers, scholarships, grants, lifeline rates, and other government assistance have first been applied;
- (e) **Essential Needs** refers to goods and services indispensable to decent living and human dignity, including basic utilities, healthcare services and medicines, education-related expenses, and housing-related costs;

(f) **Inflation-Triggered Enhancement** refers to the temporary increase in the value or applicable ceiling of Maginhawang Buhay benefits authorized under Section 11 of this Act;

(g) **Low-Income Households** refers to households whose total gross annual income falls within the poverty threshold or low-income classifications officially determined, defined, and periodically updated by the Philippine Statistics Authority, taking into account household size, geographic location, and prevailing cost-of-living indicators;

(h) **Maginhawang Buhay Discount** refers to the mandatory twenty percent (20%) reduction in the Eligible Net Amount for covered essential needs, subject to the limitations and safeguards established under this Act;

(i) **Middle-Class Households** refers to households whose total gross annual income falls within income brackets officially classified by the Philippine Statistics Authority as middle class, including vulnerable, emerging, and pressured middle-income groups whose economic security is materially affected by inflation or economic volatility;

(j) **Qualified Beneficiaries** refers to low-income and middle-class households duly identified, registered, validated, and included in the National Maginhawang Buhay Registry pursuant to this Act; and

(k) **Tax Expenditure** refers to revenues otherwise collectible by the National Government but lawfully forgone through tax credits, deductions, exemptions, or other tax-based incentives granted pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 4. *Maginhawang Buhay Support Framework.* — There is hereby established a Maginhawang Buhay Support Framework, which shall serve as the comprehensive, coordinated, and institutional mechanism for the delivery of discounts on essential needs to qualified beneficiaries.

The Framework shall provide, as a baseline benefit, a twenty percent (20%) discount on the Eligible Net Amount for covered essential needs, subject to:

- (a) beneficiary eligibility;
- (b) annual and sector-specific benefit ceilings;
- (c) consumption thresholds;
- (d) beneficiary prioritization;
- (e) verification procedures;
- (f) the Annual Fiscal Envelope; and
- (g) safeguards against fraud, duplication, abuse, and leakage.

The Framework shall be guided by the principles of accurate targeting, administrative simplicity, proportionality, fiscal sustainability, transparency, shared public-private responsibility, data protection, accountability, and measurable social impact.

SEC. 5. *Annual Household Benefit Ceiling.* — The aggregate base Maginhawang Buhay benefit that may be availed of by a qualified household during a calendar year shall not exceed an amount equivalent to twenty percent (20%) of the applicable annual poverty threshold for the household size and

geographic area concerned, as officially determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The Council may prescribe lower sector-specific ceilings for utilities, healthcare, education, and housing, taking into account:

- (a) prevailing prices and expenditure patterns;
- (b) household size;
- (c) geographic differences in cost of living;
- (d) beneficiary income classification;
- (e) available fiscal space;
- (f) actual utilization;
- (g) program performance; and
- (h) equity among beneficiaries.

No adjustment made by the Council may exceed the aggregate statutory ceiling provided herein except during an Inflation-Triggered Enhancement authorized under Section 11 of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Scope of Maginhawang Buhay Discounts.* — Qualified beneficiaries shall be entitled to the Maginhawang Buhay Discount on the following essential needs:

- (a) **Basic Utilities.** — Electricity, water, basic telecommunications, and internet services, subject to lifeline consumption caps, service classifications, and regulatory parameters prescribed by the appropriate regulatory agencies;

(b) **Healthcare Expenses.** — Hospital services, professional fees, diagnostic and laboratory services, medicines, medical devices, and outpatient care in public and private healthcare facilities;

(c) **Education Expenses.** — Tuition and authorized miscellaneous fees in public and private basic education schools, higher education institutions, and technical-vocational institutions; and

(d) **Housing Expenses.** — Rent, monthly amortizations, and basic housing-related charges for socialized and affordable housing.

The Council shall establish sector-specific ceilings and consumption thresholds consistent with Section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Integration with Existing Subsidy Programs and Order of Application of Benefits.* — The Maginhawang Buhay Discount shall supplement and not replace existing statutory discounts, exemptions, lifeline rates, insurance benefits, subsidies, vouchers, scholarships, grants, and other social protection programs.

For purposes of determining the Eligible Net Amount, benefits shall generally be applied in the following order, subject to specific governing laws:

(a) statutory discounts and exemptions;

(b) mandatory social insurance and benefit packages;

(c) lifeline rates and regulated subsidies;

(d) scholarships, vouchers, grants, and other government financial assistance; and

(e) the Maginhawang Buhay Discount on the remaining amount actually payable.

Accordingly:

(1) for utilities, the discount shall be applied after applicable lifeline rates and regulated subsidies;

(2) for healthcare, the discount shall apply to the remaining co-payments and out-of-pocket expenses after PhilHealth, other mandatory benefit packages, and applicable statutory discounts;

(3) for education, the discount shall apply only to the net amount payable after free tuition, vouchers, scholarships, subsidies, and other student financial assistance have been deducted; and

(4) for housing, the discount shall align with existing socialized and affordable housing programs and shall not impair or diminish existing contractual subsidies.

No expense, transaction, or portion thereof may be claimed, reimbursed, credited, or discounted more than once under the same government benefit.

The Council shall establish uniform rules on benefit stacking and sequencing to prevent duplication while preserving lawful entitlements.

SEC. 8. *Beneficiary Identification, Income Tiers, and Prioritization.* — The Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Department of Economic Planning and Development, and concerned local government units, shall establish, maintain, and regularly update a National Maginhawang Buhay Registry.

Qualified beneficiaries shall be classified into the following priority tiers:

Tier I — Poor and Low-Income Households;

Tier II — Vulnerable and Emerging Middle-Class Households; and

Tier III — Pressured Middle-Class Households.

Tier I beneficiaries shall be entitled to up to one hundred percent (100%) of the applicable Annual Household Benefit Ceiling.

Tier II beneficiaries may be entitled to up to seventy-five percent (75%) of the applicable Annual Household Benefit Ceiling.

Tier III beneficiaries may be entitled to up to fifty percent (50%) of the applicable Annual Household Benefit Ceiling.

The twenty percent (20%) discount rate shall remain applicable to the Eligible Net Amount until the corresponding annual ceiling is reached.

Subject to the Annual Fiscal Envelope, assistance shall be funded and implemented in the following order of priority:

- (a) Tier I;
- (b) Tier II; and
- (c) Tier III.

No qualified Tier I household shall be denied an otherwise available benefit solely to preserve funding for a lower-priority tier.

The Council may refine income bands within the foregoing tiers, taking into account household size, geographic cost of living, dependency ratio, disability, catastrophic expenditure, and other objectively verifiable indicators of economic vulnerability.

SEC. 9. *National Maginhawang Buhay Registry.* — The Registry shall utilize interoperable government databases, secure digital platforms, and verification systems to ensure:

- (a) accurate targeting;
- (b) single household registration;
- (c) timely updating of beneficiary status;
- (d) prevention of duplicate registration;
- (e) verification of benefit utilization;
- (f) data integrity;
- (g) prevention of fraud and leakage; and
- (h) efficient interoperability among participating agencies and providers.

The collection, processing, storage, use, and sharing of personal data shall strictly comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and other applicable laws.

Only information reasonably necessary for beneficiary identification, eligibility verification, benefit delivery, audit, program evaluation, and prevention of fraud may be collected or processed.

SEC. 10. *Grievance, Correction, and Appeals Mechanism.* — The DSWD shall establish an accessible, free, and time-bound grievance and appeals mechanism for:

- (a) wrongful exclusion from the Registry;
- (b) incorrect beneficiary classification;

- (c) suspension or termination of benefits;
- (d) disputed transactions;
- (e) non-recognition of lawful benefits; and
- (f) other errors affecting beneficiary entitlement.

Initial complaints shall be resolved within fifteen (15) working days from receipt of complete supporting information.

An aggrieved party may appeal an adverse determination to the appropriate regional office or such body designated by the Council within fifteen (15) working days.

Final administrative appeals shall be resolved within thirty (30) working days.

No beneficiary shall be permanently removed from the Registry without notice and reasonable opportunity to contest the basis for removal, except in cases involving fraud or identity theft requiring immediate protective action.

SEC. 11. *Inflation-Triggered Automatic Enhancement of Benefits.* — An Inflation-Triggered Enhancement shall be activated when the national inflation rate reaches or exceeds four percent (4%) for three (3) consecutive months, as officially reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Upon activation, and subject to the Annual Fiscal Envelope and certifications required under Section 12:

- (a) the Maginhawang Buhay Discount may be increased by not more than five (5) percentage points, provided that the total discount shall in no case exceed twenty-five percent (25%); and

(b) the applicable Annual Household Benefit Ceiling may be increased by not more than twenty- five percent (25%).

No inflation-triggered enhancement may:

- (1) create a new category of essential need not authorized under this Act;
- (2) expand eligibility beyond the classes contemplated herein;
- (3) require a new or special appropriation outside the existing Annual Fiscal Envelope; or
- (4) create a vested right to continuation of the enhanced benefit.

Any enhancement shall automatically terminate once national inflation falls below four percent (4%) for three (3) consecutive months.

Within thirty (30) days after activation or termination, the Council shall submit a report to Congress stating the fiscal impact, number of beneficiaries affected, and measures implemented.

SEC. 12. *Annual Fiscal Envelope and Fiscal Safeguards.* — The Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management shall jointly determine and certify the proposed Annual Fiscal Envelope for the implementation of this Act.

The Annual Fiscal Envelope shall include:

- (a) appropriated funds;
- (b) authorized savings and unobligated balances;
- (c) other authorized funding sources; and

(d) the maximum allowable tax expenditure arising from provider reimbursement.

The proposed Annual Fiscal Envelope shall be submitted as part of the annual national budget process and shall be separately disclosed in the National Expenditure Program or accompanying fiscal documents.

No implementation, benefit enhancement, tax credit, or other fiscal commitment under this Act shall exceed the Annual Fiscal Envelope.

If projected claims exceed available fiscal capacity, the Council shall:

- (a) first apply statutory and sector-specific benefit ceilings;
- (b) preserve benefits for Tier I households;
- (c) thereafter prioritize Tier II households; and
- (d) reduce or defer benefits for Tier III households as may be necessary.

No unpaid, deferred, or disallowed claim arising solely from exhaustion of the Annual Fiscal Envelope shall constitute a vested right against the National Government.

No provision of this Act shall be construed as creating an automatic appropriation.

SEC. 13. *Pilot Rollout and Phased National Implementation.* — Implementation shall commence through a pilot rollout in selected regions representing:

- (a) highly urbanized areas;

- (b) rural areas;
- (c) geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas; and
- (d) areas exhibiting varying poverty, inflation, and cost-of-living conditions.

The pilot period shall not exceed two (2) years.

The Council shall establish baseline indicators before implementation and shall measure, at a minimum:

- (a) number and profile of beneficiaries;
- (b) average household benefit;
- (c) utilization by income tier;
- (d) utilization by sector;
- (e) administrative cost per beneficiary;
- (f) household out-of-pocket expenditure;
- (g) healthcare utilization and financial protection;
- (h) education enrollment, retention, and continuity;
- (i) housing payment stability;
- (j) utility affordability and disconnection incidence;
- (k) provider compliance;
- (l) beneficiary exclusion and inclusion error rates;

(m) incidence of fraud, leakage, and duplicate claims;

(n) total appropriated expenditure;

(o) total tax expenditure; and

(p) cost-effectiveness of the program.

An independent evaluation shall be conducted before nationwide implementation.

The evaluation shall be submitted to the President, the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee created under this Act, and both Houses of Congress.

Nationwide implementation shall commence only upon:

(a) completion of the pilot evaluation;

(b) certification by the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management that nationwide implementation is fiscally sustainable;

(c) certification by the Department of Economic Planning and Development that the program demonstrates reasonable cost-effectiveness and measurable social benefit; and

(d) submission of the foregoing certifications and evaluation to Congress.

SEC. 14. *Inter-Agency Maginhawang Buhay Support Council.* — There is hereby created an Inter-Agency Maginhawang Buhay Support Council, attached to the Office of the President, which shall serve as the primary policy-making, coordination, and oversight body for implementation of this Act.

The Council shall:

- (a) prescribe sector-specific benefit ceilings;
- (b) establish beneficiary targeting and prioritization rules;
- (c) coordinate agency databases and systems;
- (d) issue uniform implementation standards;
- (e) monitor fiscal utilization;
- (f) prevent duplication and leakage;
- (g) oversee the Registry;
- (h) supervise pilot implementation;
- (i) ensure public disclosure and reporting; and
- (j) recommend legislative or administrative reforms based on program performance.

SEC. 15. *Composition of the Council.* — The Council shall be composed of:

- (a) Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development — Chairperson;
- (b) Secretary of the Department of Finance — Vice Chairperson;
- (c) Secretary of the Department of Economic Planning and Development — Vice Chairperson;
- (d) Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management — Member;
- (e) Secretary of the Department of Health — Member;

- (f) Secretary of the Department of Education — Member;
- (g) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education — Member;
- (h) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority — Member;
- (i) Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development — Member;
- (j) Chairperson of the Energy Regulatory Commission — Member;
- (k) Administrator of the National Water Resources Board — Member;
- (l) National Statistician of the Philippine Statistics Authority — Member; and
- (m) one representative of local government units designated by the President — Member in a consultative capacity.

The Council may invite representatives of relevant regulatory agencies, consumer organizations, private service providers, civil society, and experts as resource persons when necessary.

SEC. 16. *Permanent Secretariat.* — There is hereby established a permanent Secretariat to support the Council.

The Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director appointed by the President, who shall have the rank, salary, privileges, and benefits of an Undersecretary.

The Secretariat shall oversee:

- (a) day-to-day program administration;

- (b) inter-agency coordination;
- (c) Registry management;
- (d) provider compliance;
- (e) beneficiary grievance systems;
- (f) fiscal monitoring;
- (g) data analytics;
- (h) program evaluation; and
- (i) reporting to the President and Congress.

To minimize administrative cost and duplication, the Secretariat shall utilize existing personnel, platforms, facilities, and administrative services of participating agencies whenever practicable.

SEC. 17. *Responsibilities of Covered Service Providers.* — Covered service providers shall:

- (a) honor the Maginhawang Buhay Discount upon verification of beneficiary eligibility;
- (b) apply the discount only to the Eligible Net Amount;
- (c) clearly reflect the original charge, prior discounts or subsidies, Eligible Net Amount, Maginhawang Buhay Discount, and final amount payable in billing statements, official receipts, or electronic records;
- (d) maintain transaction records sufficient for audit and verification;

- (e) submit periodic compliance and reimbursement reports;
- (f) cooperate with regulatory, tax, and auditing authorities;
- (g) protect beneficiary information; and
- (h) refrain from passing on the cost of the discount through hidden charges, unjustified rate increases, reduced service quality, discriminatory treatment, or other forms of circumvention.

SEC. 18. *Cost-Sharing with Private Service Providers and Government Reimbursement.* — The implementation of the Maginhawang Buhay Discount shall be undertaken through a mandatory cost-sharing mechanism between the National Government and covered private service providers.

Covered private service providers shall grant the full applicable discount at the point of service or billing.

Of the verified Maginhawang Buhay Discount actually granted:

- (a) eighty percent (80%) shall constitute the maximum reimbursable government share; and
- (b) twenty percent (20%) shall be borne by the covered private service provider as its cost-sharing contribution.

The reimbursable government share shall be recognized exclusively through tax-based mechanisms, primarily through tax credits against national internal revenue tax liabilities, subject to the Annual Fiscal Envelope.

Tax credits:

- (1) shall be supported by verified transaction-level documentation;

- (2) shall not exceed eighty percent (80%) of the lawful discount actually granted;
- (3) shall not be claimed more than once;
- (4) shall be subject to audit, valuation, reconciliation, and post-utilization review by the Bureau of Internal Revenue;
- (5) may be carried forward for a period not exceeding three (3) taxable years when the provider has insufficient current tax liability, subject to implementing rules; and
- (6) shall not be convertible into direct cash reimbursement.

The Department of Finance and Bureau of Internal Revenue shall establish a uniform electronic claims and verification system.

No provider shall acquire a vested right to reimbursement exceeding the Annual Fiscal Envelope.

For public service providers, the cost attributable to discounts shall be implemented within their authorized appropriations and other lawful funding sources.

SEC. 19. *Transparency and Public Reporting.* — The Council shall publish an annual Maginhawang Buhay Program Report not later than June 30 of the succeeding year.

The report shall include:

- (a) number of registered and active beneficiaries;
- (b) beneficiaries by income tier;

- (c) geographic distribution;
- (d) benefits by sector;
- (e) average and median household benefit;
- (f) appropriated expenditure;
- (g) tax expenditure arising from provider reimbursements;
- (h) administrative expenditure;
- (i) utilization rates;
- (j) provider compliance rates;
- (k) grievances and appeals filed and resolved;
- (l) inclusion and exclusion errors;
- (m) fraud, leakage, and duplicate claims detected;
- (n) enforcement actions undertaken;
- (o) results of program evaluations;
- (p) measurable social and economic outcomes; and
- (q) recommended changes in benefit levels, ceilings, targeting, or implementation.

Subject to the Data Privacy Act, the Council shall maintain a publicly accessible online dashboard presenting aggregated program information and fiscal utilization.

SEC. 20. *Congressional Oversight and Sunset Review.* —A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Maginhawang Buhay Support Framework is hereby created to monitor:

- (a) program implementation;
- (b) targeting and equity;
- (c) fiscal impact;
- (d) tax expenditures;
- (e) inflation-triggered enhancements;
- (f) provider compliance;
- (g) program evaluation; and
- (h) nationwide expansion.

The Committee may require the submission of documents and reports and may summon concerned agencies to explain implementation and fiscal performance.

All Inflation-Triggered Enhancements shall be subject to review at least once every three (3) years.

Congress may modify, suspend, or terminate any enhancement or implementation mechanism found to be fiscally unsustainable, ineffective, inequitable, or inconsistent with the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 21. *Fraud Prevention, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties.* — The following acts are prohibited:

- (a) willful refusal by a covered provider to grant a lawful discount;
- (b) collection of hidden charges or imposition of unjustified price or rate increases intended to recover the cost of the discount;
- (c) reduction of service quality or discriminatory treatment of beneficiaries;
- (d) filing of false, fictitious, inflated, or duplicate reimbursement claims;
- (e) use of another person's beneficiary identity or credentials;
- (f) collusion between beneficiaries and providers to generate fictitious transactions;
- (g) falsification or manipulation of Registry or transaction data;
- (h) unauthorized access, disclosure, sale, or misuse of beneficiary information;
- (i) claiming reimbursement for an amount already reimbursed, subsidized, or otherwise compensated by government; and
- (j) any other fraudulent act intended to evade, defeat, or unlawfully benefit from this Act.

Violations shall be subject to administrative fines, disallowance and recovery of improper claims, suspension or revocation of accreditation or licenses when authorized by law, exclusion from the program, and applicable civil or criminal liability.

Any provider found to have filed a fraudulent reimbursement claim shall return the full amount improperly credited, with applicable interest and penalties, without prejudice to prosecution under existing laws.

SEC. 22. *Data Privacy, Security, and System Integrity.* — All agencies and covered providers processing personal information under this Act shall implement appropriate organizational, physical, and technical security measures.

Access to the Registry shall be role-based and auditable.

Every material access, modification, validation, or benefit transaction shall generate an electronic audit trail.

Data-sharing agreements shall clearly specify:

- (a) purpose;
- (b) lawful basis;
- (c) categories of information exchanged;
- (d) authorized users;
- (e) retention periods;
- (f) security standards; and
- (g) accountability for unauthorized disclosure or misuse.

No data gathered pursuant to this Act shall be used for purposes unrelated to implementation, evaluation, audit, law enforcement involving fraud, or other purposes expressly authorized by law.

SEC. 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Council, in consultation with the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Bureau of Internal Revenue, concerned regulators, local government units, consumer representatives, private service providers, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

The IRR shall include:

- (a) detailed beneficiary classification rules;
- (b) sector-specific benefit ceilings;
- (c) consumption thresholds;
- (d) benefit sequencing and anti-duplication rules;
- (e) Registry procedures;
- (f) provider verification and reimbursement procedures;
- (g) grievance and appeals mechanisms;
- (h) audit and anti-fraud systems;
- (i) pilot evaluation methodology;
- (j) fiscal monitoring and reporting rules; and
- (k) data protection and cybersecurity standards.

SEC. 24. *Funding.* — Subject to the Annual Fiscal Envelope and applicable laws, implementation may be funded from:

- (a) duly authorized appropriations;
- (b) reprogrammed savings and unobligated balances of concerned agencies, when legally available;
- (c) excess dividends from government-owned or -controlled corporations;
- (d) incremental revenues from excise taxes on tobacco, alcohol, sweetened beverages, and similar products, consistent with existing earmarking laws;
- (e) contingent and standby funds authorized under the General Appropriations Act for social protection and inflation mitigation; and
- (f) such other sources as may be authorized by law.

Tax expenditures arising from provider reimbursement shall be separately accounted for and disclosed.

No provision of this Act shall be construed as creating a permanent entitlement or automatic appropriation.

SEC. 25. *Periodic Program Review.* — Every three (3) years from the commencement of nationwide implementation, the Department of Economic Planning and Development, in coordination with the Department of Finance and the Council, shall conduct a comprehensive review of the program.

The review shall determine:

- (a) whether the twenty percent (20%) baseline discount remains appropriate;

- (b) whether benefit ceilings remain equitable and fiscally sustainable;
- (c) whether beneficiary classifications remain responsive to household vulnerability;
- (d) whether the cost-sharing mechanism remains workable;
- (e) whether the program produces measurable improvements in household welfare; and
- (f) whether any provision should be continued, modified, expanded, reduced, or terminated.

The findings shall be submitted to the President and Congress and made publicly available.

SEC. 26. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 27. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 28. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,