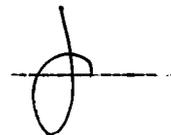


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE
S. No. 2815

Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PATUBIG HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PHAP) IN
THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Explanatory Note

With the impending increase of water rates in our country, low-income households face the added burden of paying their bills due to limited financial resources. Amid the rising costs of basic necessities and services, the government needs to provide assistance to alleviate the current situation of the low-income households. The assistance in the payment of water bills will play a crucial role in supporting households that struggle to meet their basic needs.

This bill aims to establish a water assistance program to help low-income households pay their residential water bill. Such assistance ensures the access to water for the health, hygiene, and overall quality of life of our citizens. This proposed legislation not only supports the immediate needs of low-income households but also aligns with the broader national goals of poverty reduction and equitable access to essential services.

By helping families manage their water utility costs, this Act will directly contribute to improving public health, reducing financial insecurity, and enhancing the quality of life for Filipinos.

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



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be called the "Patubig Household
2 Assistance Program (PHAP)".

3 **SEC. 2. (a) DEFINITIONS** - In this section:

4 (1) **HOUSEHOLD** - The term "household" means any individual or group of
5 individuals who are living together as an economic unit.

6 (2) **BENEFICIARIES**- The term "beneficiaries" means a household—

7 (A) that has one or more individuals receiving government
8 assistance under the Pantawid Familyang Pilipino Program (4Ps),
9 which provides conditional cash transfers to support low-income
10 families;

11 (B) that has a household income that falls within the poverty
12 threshold duly set by the Philippine Statistics Authority

13 (3) **POVERTY LEVEL** - The term "poverty level" means the poverty line as
14 determined by the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority,
15 considering various factors such as household size, location, and economic
16 conditions.

1 (4) SECRETARY - The term "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of the
2 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), who is
3 responsible for the implementation of social welfare programs aimed at the
4 delivery of water assistance to eligible beneficiaries.

5 **SEC. 3. Establishment of the Patubig Household Assistance Program (PHAP)**

6 - The Secretary shall establish the Patubig Household Assistance Program (PHAP) that
7 will provide financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries to pay residential water bills, or a
8 portion thereof, and manage their residential water utility costs.

9 The amount of financial assistance shall be determined in accordance with the
10 average existing rates of water consumption per locality, as determined by the National
11 Water and Resources Board, which shall not be lower than Three hundred pesos (P
12 300.00) nor exceed One thousand pesos (P 1,000.00).

13 The Secretary shall prioritize households in the rural or underserved areas in
14 accessing funds through the Patubig Household Assistance Program (PHAP).

15 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
16 this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual General Appropriations Act.

17 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DSWD, in consultation with
18 the PSA, DILG, and other public and private stakeholders, shall promulgate the
19 implementing rules and regulations of the Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

20 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** – If any of the provisions of this Act is declared
21 unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
22 force and effect.

23 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All acts, laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
24 instructions and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent with any provision
25 of this Act are hereby repealed and or modified accordingly.

26 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its
27 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,