



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5672

BY REPRESENTATIVES CO, BATOCABE, AGYAO, ARNAIZ, CAMINERO, LEE,
PERNES AND SANTIAGO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 681

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 known as the "Rural
2 Employment Assistance Act".

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* -- It is the declared policy of the State
4 to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity of
5 the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide
6 adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living,
7 and an improved quality of life for all. Towards this end, the State shall
8 provide employment assistance to a qualified head of family or an unmarried,
9 single adult member of qualified poor households in rural areas identified by
10 the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR)
11 of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

1 SEC. 3. *Rural Employment Assistance Program.* – The DSWD shall
2 establish and implement the Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP),
3 hereinafter referred to as the Program, in coordination with the local
4 government units (LGUs). The Program shall provide temporary employment
5 to every qualified head of family or an unmarried, single adult member of
6 qualified poor families in rural areas who volunteers to do unskilled manual
7 work for a minimum of forty-five (45) days but not more than ninety (90) days
8 in every calendar year.

9 As used in this Act, a “rural area” refers to a barangay which has a
10 population size of less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) and which does
11 not have any business establishment with twenty-five (25) or more employees,
12 or five (5) or more establishments with a minimum of ten (10) employees, or
13 five (5) or more facilities within a two (2)-kilometer radius from the barangay
14 hall.

15 The “poor” refer to individuals and families whose income fall below
16 the poverty threshold as defined by the government or those who cannot afford
17 to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and
18 other essential amenities of life in a sustained manner or those who have been
19 identified as poor by the NHTS-PR.

20 SEC. 4. *Assessment to Determine Qualification for Availment of*
21 *Employment Assistance.* – The DSWD, in close coordination with the LGUs
22 and other concerned government agencies, shall conduct an assessment of all
23 poor individuals and families in rural areas who signify interest to do unskilled
24 labor to determine their eligibility to avail of the services and benefits under
25 the REAP.

26 SEC. 5. *Rate of Assistance.* – Every head of family or an unmarried,
27 single adult member of a poor family in the rural areas who qualifies to avail of
28 the benefits and services under the REAP shall be entitled to receive for each

1 day of work financial assistance equal to the applicable minimum wage set by
2 the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) in the region.
3 They shall also be entitled to the coverage of mandatory social security
4 benefits such as those extended by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
5 (PhilHealth), Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG) and the Social
6 Security System (SSS).

7 SEC. 6. *Types of Works and Activities.* – The DSWD, in coordination
8 with the LGUs and other concerned government agencies, shall lead in the
9 implementation of the REAP, particularly in project identification and in the
10 implementation and monitoring of projects and activities. Projects and
11 activities to be identified and undertaken under the REAP should be of the type
12 and nature that can be completed in a specific period of time. These projects
13 may include the following:

14 (a) Development, rebuilding/rehabilitation of agri-based livelihood
15 assets destroyed or lost due to natural disasters such as desilting of irrigation
16 canals, development of paddy dikes and rehabilitation of water impounding;

17 (b) Rehabilitation and or development of common service facilities
18 which are being shared and used by poor families as production or
19 consolidation centers/units such as post-harvest facilities and public markets;

20 (c) Development or rehabilitation of physical assets to open up access
21 to natural assets where the former is necessary to bring out the products of
22 poor families to the market such as farm-to-market roads, slope protection and
23 bridges; and

24 (d) Protection of productive assets through mitigation measures such as
25 mangrove planting/rehabilitation and tree planting.

26 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)
27 days after the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and
28 Development shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Local

1 Government, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
2 implementation of this Act.

3 SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
4 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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