

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



'22 JUL 13 P1:25

SENATE

S. No. 500

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD SUBSIDY TO EVERY POOR  
FILIPINO FAMILY AFFECTED BY THE QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, brought about adverse social, psychological, and economic impacts to the Filipino people, and placed the entire Luzon under one of the world's longest lockdowns<sup>1</sup> and the whole country under a State of Calamity.

Since March 19, 2020, Filipinos have been required to observe strict Community Quarantine measures, which limited movement to buying necessities and only allowed essential businesses to operate. This has greatly affected our poor and marginalized communities who are dependent on their daily minimum wage.

While pandemic restrictions have since eased, the uncertainty of the rapidly evolving virus, and the possibility of another surge of its variants and the emergence of another infectious disease puts our country at high risk for another lockdown.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://time.com/5945616/covid-philippines-pandemic-lockdown/>

This bill thus aims to provide assistance to poor families in the areas most affected by quarantine protocols in the form of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) emergency food subsidy per day for thirty (30) days.

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



LOREN LEGARDA

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

1 Section. 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Emergency Food Subsidy*  
2 *Act*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and  
4 dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation  
5 and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social  
6 services and an improved quality of life for all.

7 In this light, the State also recognizes the Article 25 of the United Nations  
8 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to a  
9 standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family,  
10 including food, clothing, housing and medical care, and necessary social services.<sup>2</sup>

11 Sec. 3. *Scope.* - This Act shall apply whenever a region, province, city and/or  
12 municipality of the Philippines is placed under lockdown to prevent the spread of  
13 COVID-19 or any other infectious disease. "Lockdown" refers to any temporary  
14 measure which imposes stringent limitations on movement and transportation of  
15 people, strict regulation of operating industries, and provision of food and essential  
16 services. These include Alert Level 5, Enhanced Community Quarantine, or any

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

1 equivalent measure defined by the appropriate Inter-Agency Task Force for the  
2 Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) Resolution.

3       Sec. 4. *Emergency Food Subsidy Program.* – An Emergency Food Subsidy  
4 Program shall hereby be established in order to provide food subsidies to areas placed  
5 under lockdown, including, but not limited to:

6           (a) Regions, provinces, cities, and/or municipalities placed under Alert  
7 Level 5 or Enhanced Community Quarantine, or its equivalent, by the  
8 Department of Health (DOH); and

9           (b) In the case of granular lockdown as defined by IATF Resolutions, areas  
10 identified as “critical zones” by local government units (LGUs) within  
11 their respective jurisdiction, or its equivalent.

12       The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination  
13 with the LGUs, shall extend emergency food subsidy to the communities.

14       Sec. 5. *Program Inclusion.* – The program will cover all households in areas  
15 placed under lockdown as defined by Section 3 of this Act. Each household shall be  
16 entitled to a food subsidy of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) per day for the duration  
17 of the lockdown in order to ease the impact of restrictions.

18       Households with workers in establishments not allowed to operate under IATF  
19 Resolutions, shall also be entitled to the benefits of the Emergency Food Subsidy  
20 Program, regardless of the Alert Level or Community Quarantine Classification, or its  
21 equivalent: *Provided*, that each household shall only be entitled to a food subsidy of  
22 Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) per day for the duration of the Alert Level or  
23 Community Quarantine Classification, or its equivalent, regardless of the number of  
24 affected workers per household.

25       Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* – An amount commensurate to the coverage of this Act  
26 is hereby appropriated as a supplemental budget to be released by the Department of  
27 Budget and Management (DBM) to the DSWD in accordance with budgeting and  
28 auditing laws, rules and regulations. The DSWD shall issue necessary guidelines for  
29 the procurement of the emergency food subsidy.

30       Sec. 7. *Availability of Appropriations.* – The appropriations authorized in this Act  
31 shall be available for release and obligation for the purpose from the date of the

1 effectivity of this Act until the last day of the utilization of the emergency food  
2 subsidy.

3       Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision  
4 of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts of  
5 provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and  
6 effect.

7       Sec. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its  
8 complete publication either in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of  
9 general circulation.

Approved,