

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1292

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Honorable Florida P. Robes

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A PREPAID ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEM FOR  
THE ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS OF THE LONE DISTRICT OF SAN JOSE DEL  
MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** It is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote the sustainable development in the country through electrification by pursuing programs that will accelerate the total electrification of the country and will ensure the quality, security and affordability of the supply of electric power.

**SEC. 2.** The main objective of this Act is to provide electricity consumers in the lone legislative district of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan an alternative means to access electricity to enable them to have control and awareness of their household electricity usage.

**SEC. 3.** A prepaid electrification system is hereby implemented in the district through the existing power distributing company, to be known as San Jose Del Monte Prepaid Electricity Project.

**SEC. 4.** The marketing, training and maintenance management should be in place before the system shall be installed and operational.

**SEC. 5.** Public Private Partnership is hereby enjoined in order to effectuate the realization of the project.

**SEC. 6.** The Department of Energy, in coordination with the existing power distributing company in the district as well as other stakeholders and private entities, shall formulate the necessary guidelines in the implementation of this project, including resource allocation, distribution of responsibilities and the setting of realistic objectives.

**SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Among the utilities which people nowadays cannot live without is electricity. Almost all human activities are related to the use of electricity. It is one of the greatest achievements of man which has made lives comfortable. It powers factories, schools, hospitals, etc. All kinds of transportations are assisted by electricity. Our world will be in total darkness without it. However, just like water, it has been commodified and is expensive. Due to necessity, people are left with no choice but to pay the cost even how high in order to use it.

Unfortunately, the cost of electricity in the country is considered the highest in Asia. In fact, high power costs have burdened Filipinos for decade. The ability of the manufacturing sector to compete in the global market is slackened because of this. Some of the reasons why cost is high are: (1) the privatization of the electric power sector; (2) no state subsidy; and (3) Very high price of domestic natural gas from Malampaya which fuels three biggest power plants in Luzon. Further, high cost of electricity is attributed to the production of power up to its distribution entailing additional cost, as well as the taxes, the burden of which are shifted to consumers. Because of these reasons, Filipino consumers pay highest among other consumers in other Asian countries.

Hence, the aim of this proposed bill is to make electricity more affordable and to protect consumers from paying for services which they have not used. A prepaid electricity, accessed though a card or loading system like that used by telecom companies, is more practical. Consumers, for one, will avoid getting penalized if payment is late or overdue. A prepaid metering system will enable consumers to monitor their usage. Considering the foregoing, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
**FLORIDA P. ROBES**