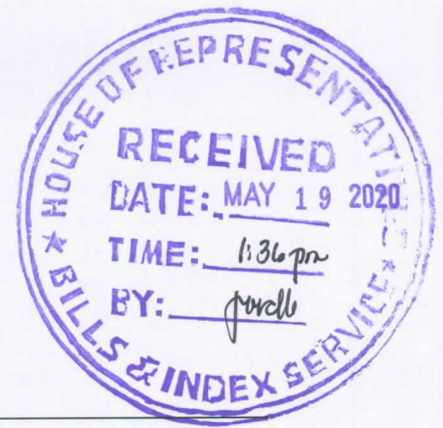


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6763



Introduced by Hon. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano

AN ACT
AMENDING A PROVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, ENTITLED "AN ACT
PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY STABILIZING THE PRICES OF
BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES AND PRESCRIBING
MEASURES AGAINST UNDUE PRICE INCREASES DURING EMERGENCY
SITUATIONS AND LIKE OCCASIONS", THEREBY ALSO AMENDING REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 10623 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

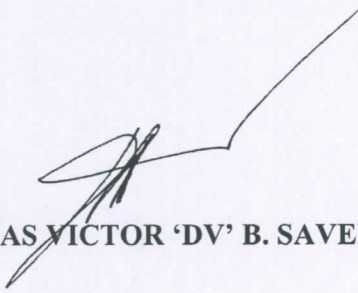
The current global COVID (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE) -19 pandemic crisis, the worst health disaster, since the 1918-1920 Spanish Flu, has wrapped its deadly tentacles around the world causing an epidemic among many nations and threatening an economic collapse in several countries. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 and as of May 15, 2020, there have been 12,091 recorded cases resulting in 806 deaths because of COVID -19 in the Philippines.

The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact most often via small droplets produced by coughing, sneezing and talking. Recommended measures to prevent infection include frequent hand washing, maintaining physical distance from others, quarantine, covering coughs, not to touch your face and for frontline health care workers, using a face covering and personal protective equipments or PPE's.

It is during this time that unscrupulous businessmen exploit such emergencies like the COVID-19 outbreak by jacking up the much needed health paraphernalia and medicines such as sanitizing alcohol, PPE's like face masks, gowns, gloves, thermometer devices, disinfectants, ventilators and the like.

These undue price increases are not only detrimental to the ordinary citizens but worse for the frontline workers in the hospitals, enforcement agencies, emergency units and even the barangay workers which will severely hamper the nation's ability to fight this disease. This proposed law to amend RA 7581 or the "Price Act" and RA 10623 as well would provide much needed health

equipment and paraphernalia at controlled prices for our frontline workers. Thus, there is the need for the immediate passage of this measure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'D' and 'V' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

HON. DEOGRACIAS VICTOR 'DV' B. SAVELLANO

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6763

Introduced by Honorable Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano

AN ACT

AMENDING A PROVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY STABILIZING THE PRICES OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES AND BY PRESCRIBING MEASURES AGAINST UNDUE PRICE INCREASES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND LIKE OCCASSIONS" THEREBY ALSO AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10623 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 3(1) of Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as the "Price Act", which was later amended by Republic Act No. 10623 is further amended to read as follows:

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*- For purposes of this Act, the term:

"(1) 'Basic necessities' are goods vital to the needs of consumers for their sustenance and existence in times of any of the cases provided under Section 6 or 7 of this Act such as, but not limited to, rice, corn, root crops, bread; fresh, dried or canned fish and other marine products; fresh pork, beef and poultry meat; fresh eggs; potable water in bottles and containers; fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables and fruits; locally manufactured instant noodles; coffee; sugar; cooking oil; salt; laundry soap and detergents; firewood; charcoal; liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and kerosene; candles; drugs AND MEDICINE SUCH AS SANITIZING ALCOHOL, PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE'S) LIKE FACE MASKS, GOWNS, GLOVES, THERMOMETER DEVICES, DISINFECTANTS AND THE LIKE classified as essential by the Department of Health and such other goods as may be included under Section 4 of this Act,"

SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*- The Department of Trade and Industry shall in consultation with the members of the Price Coordinating Council and stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules, regulations and procedures for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days upon its effectivity and shall monitor strict compliance

therewith. They shall also review the existing implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 7581 and Republic Act No. 10623 and revise its provisions as maybe appropriate.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, decrees, executive disorders, issuances or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revised or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*- If any part of this At is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or provisions hereof not so declared shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the country.

Approved,