

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4697**

Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The creation of a comprehensive **National Nutrition Program** is very vital in ensuring the nutritional well-being of all Filipinos, to be recognized locally and globally, it shall be led by a team of competent and committed public servants.

This State shall foster all efforts of the government, private sector, international organizations and other stakeholders at all levels, in addressing hunger and malnutrition of Filipinos through:

- Policy and program formulation and coordination;
- Capacity development;
- Promotion of good nutrition;
- Nutrition surveillance;
- Resource generation and mobilization
- Advocacy; and
- Partnership and alliance building

This House Bill seeks to create a comprehensive **National Nutrition Program**, that shall orchestrate the methodology in sustaining the health and nutritional well-being in the country.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. ____

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AN ACT

**CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL NUTRITION
PROGRAM, TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL,
INTELLECTUAL, AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE NATION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. TITLE – This Act shall be known as the “**National Nutrition Act of 2019**”.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY – It is hereby a declared policy of the state to foster nation-building, thru the collaboration between food and nutrition, and establish the capacity of the youth and students to develop and learn.

The State shall establish a *comprehensive national nutrition program* that will address the problem of malnutrition in the entire country.

SECTION 3. NATIONAL NUTRITION PROGRAM. – There shall hereby be created a National Nutrition Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program.

SECTION 4. MODULES AND SCOPE. – The program shall:

- Formulate national food and nutrition policies and strategies and serve as the policy, coordinating and advisory body of food, nutrition and health concerns;
- Coordinate planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the national nutrition program;
- Coordinate the hunger mitigation and malnutrition prevention program to achieve relevant Millennium Development Goals;
- Strengthen competencies and capabilities of stakeholders through public education, capacity building and skills development;
- Coordinate the release of funds, loans, and grants from government organizations (GOs) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs); and
- Call on any department, bureau, office, agency and other instrumentalities of the government for assistance in the form of personnel, facilities and resources as the need arises.

SECTION 5. MANDATORY NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR THE YOUTH AND SCHOOL CHILDREN:

- a. There shall be an allotted minimum budget per meal;
- b. The concerned city or municipality shall determine the venue of the feeding program;
- c. The city or municipality in coordination with the DSWD and DEPED shall determine the students that will be involved in the feeding program;

- d. The city or municipality in collaboration with the DSWD and DEPED shall determine the frequency of holding the feeding program;
- e. DSWD and DEPED shall monitor and evaluate children's weight before and after the feeding programs to determine if the students have reached their ideal nutritional status;
- f. DSWD and DEPED shall educate families about health and nutrition, so that they could sustain the progress children have made during the school feeding programs;
- g. DEPED shall mandate schools to provide nutrition, proper grooming and hygiene counseling for both students and parents;
- h. DSWD shall teach parents how to prepare affordable yet nutritious meals through Parents Effectiveness Sessions.
- i. DSWD and DEPED shall ensure that school feeding programs are continuous.

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION – The state shall hereby provide the amount of Five hundred million pesos (**₱500,000,000.00**) for the effective implementation of the *National Nutrition Program*.

The amount necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of implementing agencies in the General Appropriations Act (**GAA**) of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

The state shall hereby authorize the Department of Health (**DOH**) to re-align its appropriations, in the current year of the date of the effectivity of this Act to conform with its mandate and requirements.

SECTION 7. PERIODIC REPORTS - The National Nutrition Council (**NNC**), **DEPED**, **DSWD** and **DOH** shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by Congress and Senate and

the appropriate department, in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

SECTION 8. AUTOMATIC REVIEW - Every three **(3) years** after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the President shall review the policies and programs, and shall make recommendations, based on its findings, to the President and to both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 9. TRANSITORY PROVISION - Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. - The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,