

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1278**



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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 7581, also known as the "Price Act", guarantees legitimate businesses a fair return on investment and the availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at reasonable prices at all times, especially in times of crisis. It reaffirms the State's policy to provide effective and sufficient protection to consumers against hoarding and profiteering in the sale and marketing of said goods especially during periods of calamities and emergencies.

The "Price Act" is due for an update. The Act has not included "new" goods that by virtue of their mass and necessary usage, qualifies as basic necessities. This includes potable water, kerosene, LPG and instant noodles.

This bill therefore seeks to expand the definition of basic necessities and prime commodities through the inclusion of other goods deemed to be necessities under certain situations identified in the law. It also provides a mechanism for greater flexibility in their respective coverage through administrative fiat, without need of legislative enactment.

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

  
**LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF BASIC NECESISTIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES, AMENDING, FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PRICE ACT', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Expanded Basic Necessities and Prime Commodities Act of 2017".

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promoted welfare of the consumers by defining and enumerating what are basic necessities and prime commodities, ensuring their availability and price reasonability at all times, especially during periods of calamity and emergencies.

**SECTION 3. Newly Defined Basic and Prime Commodities.** – Section 3 (1) of Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as the 'Price Act,' is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

(1) 'Basic necessities' include rice; corn; bread; fresh, dried and canned fish and other marine products; fresh pork, beef and poultry meal; fresh eggs; fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables; root crops; **POTABLE WATER IN CONTAINERS**; coffee; sugar; **NOODLES**; cooking oil; laundry soap; detergents; firewood; charcoal; candles; **KEROSENE AND LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS**, and drugs classified as essential by the Department of Health **AND SUC OTHER GOODS AS MAY BE INCLUDED UNDER SECTION 4 OF THIS ACT."**

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(8) 'Prime commodities' include **[fresh fruits];** flour, dried, processed [and] **OR** canned pork; beef and poultry meat; dairy products not falling under basic necessities; **[noodles];** onions; garlic; vinegar; patis; soy sauce; toilet soap; fertilizer; pesticides; herbicides; poultry; swine and cattle feeds; veterinary products for poultry, swine and cattle; paper; school supplies; nipa shingles; sawali; cement; clinker; GI sheets; hollow

blocks; plywood; ply board; construction nails; batteries; electrical supplies; light bulbs; steel wire; **[and]** all drugs classified as essential drugs by the Department of Health, **AND SUCH OTHER GOODS AS MAY BE INCLUDED UNDER SECTION 4 OF THIS ACT.**

**SECTION 4.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"SECTION 4. *INCLUSION OR Exclusion from the Coverage of this Act.* – Upon petition of the concerned parties **OR BY MOTU PROPIO ACTION OF THE CONCERNED AGENCY OF THE PRICE COORDINATING COUNCIL** and after public hearing, the implementing agency, with the approval of the President, **MAY INCLUDE IN THE DEFINITION OF BASIC NECESSITIES OR OF PRIME COMMODITIES TYPES AND BRANDS OF GOODS OR** may exclude from the coverage of this Act, types or brands of the goods included in the definition of basic necessities and prime commodities, which may be deemed as non-essential goods or luxury goods: Provided, that, any type or brand excluded may be reinstated by the implementing agency during occasions of acute shortage in the supply of the basic necessity or prime commodity to which the excluded type or brand used to belong **OR IN TIMES OF AN OF THE CASES PROVIDED IN SECTION 6 OR 7 OF THIS ACT.**"**

**SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Trade and Industry, in consultation with the members of the Price Coordinating Council and stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

**SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act, or any part thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other portions.

**SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, proclamation, rules, regulations, issuances and enactments of parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,