

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1769**



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

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to the World Health Organization in 2015, the Philippines has made good progress towards its Millennium Development Goal for water and sanitation<sup>1</sup>. With universal access as the theme for the country's main policies in this issue, the Department of Health is working on its roadmap to reach its target of providing the needed proper sanitation facilities<sup>2</sup>. However, 9 million still lack access to safe and sustainable water<sup>3</sup>.

Lack of sanitation and potable water are often associated with water-related illnesses and, eventually, death<sup>4</sup>. It has been recognized as the world's "second biggest killer of children"<sup>5</sup> and will continue to be so if not addressed. The State recognizes that the need for a safe and clean water is a basic right and aims to act on this through the below legislation.

This bill intends to address this issue by providing for an accelerated program for the construction of a potable water supply system in every barangay in the country. This would allow barangays access to safe drinking water fast and prioritize areas with social and health problems from water-borne diseases. This proposed 3-year program aims to put a timed pressure on the construction of the systems in order to provide faster and efficient service delivery.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

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

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/monitoring/investments/philippines-01-jul-16.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/investments/philippines-01-jul-16.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> <https://water.org/our-impact/philippines/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/hunger/61480-access-water-sanitation-philippines>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

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**AN ACT**

**TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED  
PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY  
SYSTEM IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN THREE YEARS**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the quality of health of every Filipino through the provision of adequate social service including, but not limited to, the provision of an adequate potable water supply system to minimize the exposure of water borne diseases.

**SECTION 2. Legal Agency.** – The Department of Social Welfare and Development in cooperation with the Department of Health and Department of Public Works and Highways shall undertake a three-year program for the construction of potable water supply system in every barangay throughout the country. The program shall give priority to areas with social and health problems brought about by water-borne diseases taking into consideration population, area served, project cost and other economic, social and environmental factors as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of the national development plans. The lead agencies concerned, in consultation with the provincial and municipal development councils, shall determine the areas that shall be given priority.

**SECTION 3. *Program Guidelines.*** – The lead agencies concerned shall observe the following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction and management of the potable water supply project:

- a) Funds provided for in this act shall be used only for the construction of the new potable water supply system;
- b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;
- c) The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed among the provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and municipalities having inadequate supply of potable water;
- d) The local government unit concerned shall participate in the project in the project planning, identification, design, management of all project funds, construction and monitoring;
- e) The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the local government unit concerned;
- f) The provincial officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and Highways, shall be responsible in the preparation of feasibility studies and design of communal water supply project.

**SECTION 4. *Appropriation.*** – The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (Php 50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of the provision of this Act. Thereafter, the succeeding appropriation for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act until the program shall have been completed.

**SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

**SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*