



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6951

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the recent emergence of a global pandemic, the government of the Philippines deemed it necessary to declare a public health emergency, thereby implementing an enhanced community quarantine throughout the hardest hit cities and provinces around the country. The enhanced community quarantine basically mandates everyone to stay at home by limiting access to public places, suspending public transportation, directing employers to uphold a work from home set-up and all other necessary measures to prevent the spread of the virus. While these measures have been implemented by reason of necessity taking into account the health of the Filipino people, it is quite apparent that those who are affected the most are the marginalized and the poor Filipino families.

This Bill aims to provide emergency food subsidy to the poor and marginalized Filipino families who have been greatly affected by the enhanced community quarantine.

In an effort to ease the burden of these families who are currently facing difficulties in sustaining their daily living, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

Eric C. Olivarez
ERIC OLIVAREZ



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1
2 **"AN ACT PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD SUBSIDY TO EVERY POOR**
3 **FILIPINO FAMILY AFFECTED BY THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY**
4 **QUARANTINE DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND**
5 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**
6

7 *Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the*
8 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*

9 **SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "*The Food Subsidy Act*".

10 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It shall be the policy of the State to provide
11 an improved quality life for all. It shall also be the policy of the State to protect and
12 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

13 To this end, the State shall create a program focusing on providing food subsidy
14 that will contribute in easing the burden of the hardest hit Filipino families by reason of
15 the enhanced community quarantine.

16 **SECTION 3. Emergency Food Subsidy Program.** – An emergency food subsidy
17 shall be established in order to provide assistance to the marginalized and poor Filipino
18 families affected by the enhanced community quarantine in the entire Luzon. The
19 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the local
20 government units (LGUs), shall extend emergency food subsidy to the communities.

21 **SECTION 4. Program Inclusions.** – The program will cover ONE HUNDRED
22 THOUSAND (100,000) households in Luzon with a food subsidy of FIVE HUNDRED
23 PESOS (Php500.00) per day for a duration of THIRTY (30) days in order to ease the
24 impact of the Coronavirus disease- 2019 (Covid-19). Other provinces throughout the

1 country greatly affected by the enhanced community quarantine shall also be included in
2 the program.

3 **SECTION 5. Appropriations.** – An amount appropriate for the mobilization of this
4 bill is hereby appropriated as a supplemental budget to be released by the Department
5 of Budget and Management (DBM) to the Department of Social Welfare and Development
6 (DSWD) in accordance with the budgeting and auditing laws of the country. The DSWD
7 shall issue necessary guidelines for the procurement of the emergency food subsidy.

8 **SECTION 6. Availability of Appropriations.** – The appropriations authorized in
9 this Act shall be available for release and obligation for the purpose from the date of the
10 effectivity of this Act until the 30th day of the utilization of the emergency food subsidy.

11 **SECTION 7. Sunset Clause.** - This Act shall expire after a three-year period from
12 the date of its effectivity, or sooner upon the official declaration of the President of the
13 Philippines upon recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging and
14 Infectious Diseases that the prevailing guidelines of the World Health Organization and
15 the consensus of the international medical community conclusively show that a viable
16 vaccine has contained or eradicated COVID-19.

17 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared
18 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be
19 affected thereby.

20 **SECTION 9. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect immediately after its
21 publication.

22 **Approved.**