

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5395



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Introduced by **Pangasinan Fifth District Representative**  
**HON. RAMON V. GUICO III**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

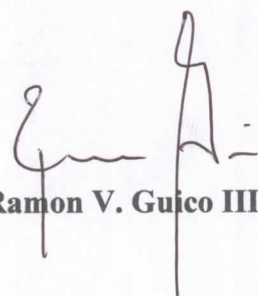
Government assistance programs such as loans, grants, financial assistances, and donations among others are vital modes of spurring the growth and development of this country, its people, and economy. The people, being the lifeblood of these programs, through their invaluable contributions, whether through the taxes they pay or the various contributions they provide for this country, shall only be rightfully accorded a full accounting of how these contributions are administered.

There is also a question of ease of access to many government assistance programs due to the obscurity of information regarding the eligibility requirements, the formulas governing the distribution of funds, the types of assistance, the uses and restrictions on the use of assistance and the obligations and duties of recipients under the program. These gaps often lead to delays over the delivery of such assistances and the misuse of public funds to accommodate vested interests.

It is also of equal significance that records of these programs be indexed in a centralized database in order to expedite the auditing of government transactions insofar as it relates to the proper utilization of government funds.

As such, this Act shall require the Secretary of Budget and Management to establish and maintain an online program information system which is capable of identifying all existing government assistance programs and publish a yearly catalog containing the same.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
Rep. Ramon V. Guico III

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AN ACT  
TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFICIENT AND REGULAR DISTRIBUTION OF CURRENT  
INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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

1       **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Government Assistance  
2 Programs Information Act.”  
3

4       **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – As expressly provided for in Article 3, Section 7 of the  
5 1987 Constitution, the State shall accord to the people its due right to information on matters of  
6 public concern. In furtherance of this, it is hereby declared a policy of the State to require the  
7 Secretary of Budget and Management to establish and maintain an online program information  
8 system which is capable of identifying all existing government assistance programs. Under this Act  
9 the contents of the Government Assistance Programs Database shall be specified, including the  
10 identity, description, and eligibility requirements of each such assistance program. The Act further  
11 requires the Secretary of Budget and Management to publish an annual catalog containing all  
12 information of government assistance programs that is in the database of the system.  
13

14       **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For the purposes of this Act:  
15

16           1) **Assistance** refers to the transfer of money, property, services, or anything of  
17 value; the principal purpose of which is to accomplish a public purpose of support or  
18 stimulation authorized by statutes. Assistance includes, but is not limited to, grants,  
19 loans, loan guarantees, scholarships, mortgage loans, insurance or other types of  
20 financial assistance; provision or donation of government facilities, goods, services,  
21 property, technical assistance, and counseling, statistical and other expert  
22 information, and service activities of regulatory agencies; but does not include  
23 provision of conventional public information services;  
24

25           2) **Government assistance program** means a function of a government agency  
26 which provides assistance or benefits for a province, territorial possession, city,



1 other political subdivision, grouping, or instrumentality thereof: any domestic profit  
2 or non-profit corporation, institution, or individual; and  
3

4 3) **Administering office** means the lowest subdivision of any government agency  
5 that has direct operational responsibility for managing a domestic assistance  
6 program.  
7

8 **SEC. 4. Duties of the Secretary.** – The Secretary of Budget and Management (hereinafter  
9 referred to as “Secretary”) shall identify all existing government assistance programs and provide  
10 information on each such program to the general public through electronic media as authorized  
11 under section (8) of this Act and through a printed catalog as authorized under section (9) of this  
12 Act.  
13

14 **SEC. 5. Information Requirements.** –  
15

16 a) The Secretary shall prepare and maintain a Government Assistance Information  
17 Database (hereinafter referred to in this Act as the "database"). For each government  
18 assistance program the data base shall—  
19

20 1) identify each such program by title, by authorizing statute, by  
21 administering office, and by an identifying number assigned by the Secretary;  
22

23 2) describe the program, the objectives of the program, and the type of  
24 activities which have been funded under the program;  
25

26 3) describe the eligibility requirements, the formulas governing the  
27 distribution of funds, the types of assistance, the uses and restrictions on the  
28 use of assistance, and the obligations and duties of recipients under the  
29 program;  
30

31 4) provide financial information, including the amount of funds appropriated  
32 for the current fiscal year or, if unavailable, the amount of funds requested by  
33 the President, and the amounts obligated, and the average amounts of awards  
34 made in past years;  
35

36 5) identify information contacts including the administering office and  
37 regional and local offices and their addresses and telephone numbers;  
38

39 6) provide a general description of any application requirements and  
40 procedures and, to the extent practical, an estimate of the time required to  
41 process the application.  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

1                   b)  
2

3                   1) Each government agency shall furnish the Secretary, at such times as the  
4                   Secretary may determine, current information on all government assistance  
5                   programs administered by such government agency.

6                   2) The Secretary shall on a regular basis incorporate into the database all  
7                   relevant information received under paragraph (1) of this subsection.  
8

9                   **SEC. 6. *Online Domestic Assistance Programs Information System* –**  
10

11                   a) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a computerized information system to  
12                   provide access to the database.  
13

14                   b) The Secretary, to the greatest extent practicable, shall provide for the widespread  
15                   availability of information contained in the database online.  
16

17                   c) The Secretary shall insure that the information available under this Act is made  
18                   available to the public.  
19

20                   d) The Secretary may develop information services to further assist national and  
21                   local government officials to identify or obtain sources of government assistance.  
22

23                   **SEC. 7. *Catalog of Government Assistance Programs*. –**  
24

25                   a) The Secretary shall prepare and publish annually a catalog of domestic assistance  
26                   programs (hereinafter referred to as the “catalog”).  
27

28                   b) The Secretary shall prepare and publish supplements to the catalog as necessary.  
29

30                   c) The Secretary may prepare and publish specialized compilations of the  
31                   information in the catalog by function as necessary.  
32

33                   d) The catalog shall contain, in such form as the Secretary determines—  
34

35                   1) all substantive information on domestic assistance programs that is in the  
36                   database at the time that the catalog is prepared;  
37

38                   2) any other information which the Secretary considers may be helpful to  
39                   potential applicants or beneficiaries under such programs; and  
40

41                   3) a detailed index  
42

43                   e) The Secretary shall make each catalog available to the public at a reasonable price.  
44

45                   f) There are authorized to be distributed, without cost, catalogs to Members of  
46                   Congress, delegates, resident commissioners, agencies, and general purpose units of

1 the local government, government recognized indigenous groups, national deposit  
2 libraries, and other local repositories designated by the Secretary.

3  
4 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DBM shall promulgate the necessary  
5 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

6  
7 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of  
8 this Act shall be charged against the Department of Budget and Management's current appropriated  
9 funding.

10  
11 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision, section or part of this Act shall be  
12 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other  
13 provisions, sections or parts thereof.

14  
15 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect immediately after approval.

*Approved,*