

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4155**



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE LIANDA B. BOLILIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE


The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

To give meaning to the above State policy, the program known as *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* or 4Ps was launched. The present 4Ps is a human development program of the national government that invests in the health and education of poor households, particularly of children aged 0-18 years old. The program entitles each beneficiary household to receive Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) per month as a health grant. It also allows a maximum of three (3) children per household to avail educational grants in which an elementary student receives Three Hundred Pesos (Php 300.00) per month for the ten (10) month school year and a high school student receives Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) per month for the ten (10) month school year.

Based on studies, these cash grants have produced positive results. However, there are reports that there are beneficiaries who are misusing these monthly cash grants by spending the money on gadgets and on their vices instead of food. Monitoring the usage of money of the beneficiaries is, indeed, difficult.

Hence, in order to ensure that the food consumption of the beneficiaries is prioritized, rice allowance should be implemented. Since rice is the staple food in the Philippines, this bill seeks to provide for twenty (20) kilos of rice per month to the beneficiaries of the program. President Duterte has already approved a Department of Agriculture (DA) measure seeking to provide P21 billion worth of assistance to rice farmers who will produce the rice allowance of 4Ps beneficiaries. Indeed, this endeavor will not only benefit poor families enrolled in 4Ps but also the revitalization of rice production in the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LIANDA B. BOLILIA
Representative
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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE RICE ALLOWANCE PROGRAM IN *PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM* (4Ps) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Rice Subsidy for the Beneficiaries of 4Ps.* – All beneficiaries of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* or 4Ps, as may properly determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall receive twenty (20) kilos of rice per month.

Funds necessary to the provision of rice subsidy to the beneficiaries of 4Ps shall be sourced from funds available to the DSWD. Additional requirements shall be charged to the appropriations under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretaries of Social Welfare and Development, Interior and Local Government, and Budget and Management shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval. Such rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,