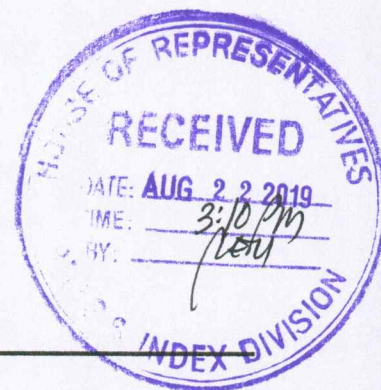


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4135



Introduced by **HON. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In November 2018, President Rodrigo R. Duterte said “Every Filipino family must have access to safe drinking water for them to lead productive lives.” He further emphasized, “I have always believed that access to safe drinking water is a fundamental right that must be enjoyed by every Filipino family so that they may lead healthy, dignified and productive lives.” He acknowledged that water has become a commodity that is harder to secure.

According to water.org out of 101 Million Filipinos, nine million rely on unimproved, unsafe and unsustainable water sources and that because of these a lot more lack access to improved sanitation. Filipino families continue to spend a lot of time, money and energy just to secure water.

The 2017 Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS) and Water Quality Testing Module of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), show that about 88% of families reported that they have sufficient access to drinking water, while the remaining were unable to have sufficient drinking water due to unavailability from the source. Families in the rural areas are more vulnerable since they are less likely to have their water sources within their premises compared to families who live in the urban areas.

Furthermore, the problem of the potability of water is also not guaranteed, especially since only 77% or four in every five Filipino families do not practice any kind of filtration method or treatment that will ensure that their water is safe to drink.

The health risks of an unsafe water supply is a case for serious concern since acute water diarrhea, which usually comes from unsafe drinking water is one of the top ten leading causes of deaths in the country, claiming over 139,000 lives.

This bill seeks to address the persisting problem of lack of access to safe drinking water especially in rural areas by establishing a 3-year program that would provide every barangay in the country with an easy access to safe and potable water supply system.

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


HON. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4135

Introduced by HON. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

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. *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.

SEC. 2. *Lead Agencies.* - The Department of Interior and Local Government, 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 the 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.

SEC. 3. *Program Guidelines.* - The lead agencies concerned shall observe the following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction and management of 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 planning, identification, design, management of funds, construction and monitoring of the project;

(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 Interior and Local government, 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 projects.

SEC. 4. Appropriation. - The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000) 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.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 6. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, orders, rules and regulation and inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper or general circulation.

Approved,