


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

'22 JUL 12 P5 :06

SENATE  
S. No. 420

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Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

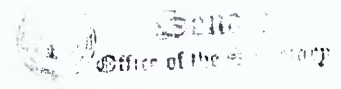
The COVID-19 pandemic resulted to a great economic loss not only in the Philippines, but in the whole world. The country logged record-high unemployment rate during the pandemic. Aside from the job problem, the inflation rate in the Philippines continues to soar, as high global oil prices seep through other goods mainly due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In light of these circumstances, this proposed bill seeks to provide temporary employment for qualified members of poor households in rural areas who are willing to do unskilled manual work for a period of time. The Local Social Welfare and Development Officers shall conduct an assessment of all poor, disadvantaged/displaced individuals, including seasonal workers who signify interest in undertaking temporary work.

As the whole country exert efforts for full economic recovery, it is imperative that all sectors in the country are well-taken care of, especially those who reside in rural areas where most are unemployed due to lack of job opportunities.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly recommended.

  
**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO** 



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*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 "*Rural Employment*  
2 *Assistance Program Act of 2022.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a declared policy of the State to promote a  
4 just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the  
5 nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social  
6 services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality  
7 of life for all. Towards this end, the State shall provide Filipinos with opportunities for  
8 just and sufficient means of livelihood. The State shall likewise initiate meaningful  
9 employment assistance programs to qualified individuals of poor, disadvantaged or  
10 displaced households in rural areas duly identified by the appropriate national  
11 agencies.

12 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

13 (a) *Displaced worker* refers to a worker in the formal and informal sectors who  
14 became unemployed, underemployed, or have lost livelihood as a result of  
15 closure of establishment, economic crisis, retrenchment, termination, natural  
16 disaster or calamities;

- 1 (b) *Poor* refers to individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty  
2 threshold as defined by the government and/or cannot afford in a sustained  
3 manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education,  
4 housing and other essential amenities of life, or those who have been identified  
5 as poor by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction  
6 (NHTS-PR);
- 7 (c) *Qualified individual* refers to willing and able Filipino citizens who are at least  
8 fifteen (15) years of age: Provided, That, individuals between the ages fifteen  
9 (15) and eighteen (18) may only qualify by first obtaining consent from their  
10 parent/s and/or legal guardian, and can only be employed in non-hazardous  
11 work environments in accordance with the Labor Code;
- 12 (d) *Rural area* refers to any barangay with at least fifty percent (50%) land devoted  
13 to agriculture, timberland, forest and/or pasture land as determined by the  
14 Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the concerned local government unit (LGU);  
15 and
- 16 (e) *Seasonal worker* refers to a worker who performs work or service that is only  
17 for a specific period of time or season of the year.

18 *Sec. 4. Rural Employment Assistance Program.* – There is hereby created a  
19 Rural Employment Assistance Program (REAP) under the Department of Labor and  
20 Employment (DOLE), which shall provide temporary employment to qualified  
21 individuals who are poor, disadvantaged, displaced or seasonal workers willing to work  
22 for a minimum of ten (10) days, but not more than ninety (90) days in a calendar year  
23 wherein the minimum and maximum period of engagement can cover a single activity  
24 or multiple activities spread out over the course of a calendar year.

25 Individuals employed under the REAP are not subject to the terms and  
26 conditions of regular employment, and as such, shall not be deemed to have  
27 employer-employee relationship with the DOLE, or any agency or institution who  
28 utilizes their services with respect to the program.

1           Sec. 5. *Qualifications for Availment of Employment Assistance.* – The Local  
2 Social Welfare and Development Officers (LSWDOs), in close coordination with DOLE  
3 and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DWSD), shall conduct an  
4 assessment and survey of all poor, disadvantaged or displaced individuals who signify  
5 interest in undertaking work under the REAP. The assessment shall also take into  
6 consideration the inherent knowledge, skills, capacities, and capabilities of potential  
7 qualified participants so as to properly determine the type and nature of projects that  
8 are most suited to them and their respective communities.

9           The DOLE shall facilitate basic knowledge and skills orientation, including  
10 briefings on minimum public health standards and protocols in relation to the COVID-  
11 19 pandemic, and capacity-building trainings and seminars as deemed necessary  
12 towards project development for qualified participants. The LGUs and program  
13 partners concerned may make available for use any tools and equipment necessary  
14 for project development to the qualified individuals.

15           Sec. 6. *Types of Works and Activities under the Program.* – Employment  
16 activities for this purpose shall be designed to mobilize eligible individuals, families,  
17 and communities to finish a project within a given time period. These projects may  
18 include, but are not limited to the following:

- 19       (a) Development, rebuilding or rehabilitation of agri-based livelihood assets  
20       damaged, destroyed, or lost due to natural disasters, such as desilting of  
21       irrigation canals, development of paddy dikes, and rehabilitation of water  
22       impounding dams;
- 23       (b) Development or rehabilitation of common service facilities, which are being  
24       shared and used by poor families as production or consolidation centers like  
25       post-harvest facilities, public markets, display centers, and fish ports;
- 26       (c) Development or rehabilitation of physical assets to open up access to areas  
27       necessary to transport rural products, such as construction of farm-to-market  
28       roads and bridges;

- 1 (d) Protection of natural and productive assets through mitigation and disaster risk  
2 reduction measures, such as mangrove planting and rehabilitation, tree  
3 planting, seedling preparation, re-forestation and similar activities;
- 4 (e) Social community projects such as repair, maintenance, or improvement of  
5 common public facilities and infrastructure such as schools and health centers,  
6 debris clearing, declogging of canals, debris segregation and materials  
7 recovery, stockpiling and clearing, disinfection and sanitation of shared facilities  
8 and public spaces; and
- 9 (f) Remote or online work projects such as digitization of records and collation of  
10 inquiries submitted to government agencies: *Provided*, That the DSWD, in  
11 coordination with the program partner, shall provide the tools and equipment  
12 necessary for remote or online work projects.

13 The DOLE shall provide an updated list of projects that may be undertaken as  
14 well as the projects not covered under this Act. This list shall be readily made available  
15 to potentially qualified individuals who have expressed their desire to participate in  
16 the REAP.

17 *Sec. 7. Rate of Assistance.* – Every position qualified under this Program shall  
18 be entitled to receive compensation for each day of work at the prevailing minimum  
19 wage set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB)  
20 concerned. LGUs may also provide for additional allowances to the beneficiaries in  
21 order to cover for other expenses such as transportation and food.

22 *Sec. 8. Micro-insurance Benefits.* – Qualified individuals are granted the option  
23 to access micro-insurance as a form of social security in the event of accidental death  
24 or dismemberment, medical reimbursement, and bereavement assistance at a  
25 socialized cost by mandating the DOLE to provide liaison services necessary to enable  
26 qualified individuals access to these social serviced. LGUs may also provide additional  
27 allowance to participants to cover insurance costs.

28 *Sec. 9. Appropriations.* – Initial funding for the implementation of this Act shall  
29 be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOLE. Thereafter, the

1 amount of necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual  
2 General Appropriations Act.

3       Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from  
4 the approval of this Act, the DOLE, in consultation with relevant agencies, shall issue  
5 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

6       Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is  
7 subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are  
8 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

9       Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive  
10 orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof  
11 which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby  
12 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

13       Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*