

'22 SEP 19 P 3:10

SENATE

S. No. 1325

RECEIVED BY. 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM TO END
HOMELESSNESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia. However, our country continues to face a housing crisis. The reality reveals a grim situation in which housing is more of a privilege than a right for the poorest of the poor.

As of 2018, there were 4.5 million homeless individuals, which could be categorized into four: i) families on the street, ii) families of the street, iii) displaced homeless families, and iv) community-based street families. Even though government and non-government organizations have made extensive efforts to solve this crisis, there are still a lot of things that need to be done to help our countrymen in need out of their unfortunate conditions.

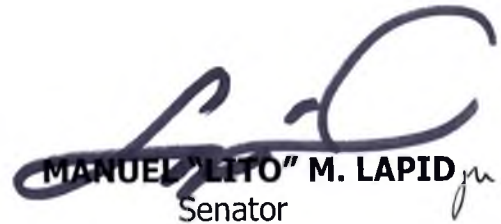
It is the policy of the State to end homelessness and provide access to affordable housing for all. In recognition of this, this bill seeks to establish a rapid re-housing program, with the following program components: Housing Identification and Matching, Rent and Move-in Assistance, Case Management and Other Supportive Services.

What is crucial in this program is the fact that government assistance does not end by giving the beneficiaries a roof to temporarily stay on, but rather, the intervention is holistic – assistance will be given to cover move-in costs, initial rent

and deposits, and utility costs. This will allow these people to achieve stability through a combination of rental assistance, job assistance and other supportive services.

In order to effectively implement this program, the DHSUD shall create and maintain an inventory of all available rental and housing units wherein program beneficiaries can be quickly re-housed or relocated.

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



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **INSTITUTIONALIZING A RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM TO END**
3 **HOMELESSNESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Rapid Re-Housing
5 Program Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is declared policy of the State to end
7 homelessness and provide access to affordable housing for all. Towards this end, the
8 government shall ensure that a rapid re-housing program is institutionalized to enable
9 individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness and eventually obtain permanent
10 housing.

11 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall
12 mean:

13 a. *Rapid Re-Housing* refers to an assistance program designed to help
14 individuals or families who are homeless move as quickly as possible into
15 permanent housing and achieve stability through a combination of rental
16 assistance, job assistance and other supportive services; and

17 b. *Homeless* refers to a condition when: (1) a person or family lacks a fixed,
18 regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and if they sleep in a shelter
19 designated for temporary living accommodations or in places not designated

1 for human habitation; or (2) when a person or household will imminently
2 lose, within a period of 30 days, their housing, including housing they own,
3 rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others as evidenced by
4 a court order of eviction, termination of a lease agreement, or any other
5 credible evidence.

6 SECTION 4. *Rapid Re-Housing Program*. – Under the administration of the
7 Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), there is hereby
8 established a Rapid Re-Housing Program which shall consist of the following program
9 components:

10 a. *Housing Identification and Matching* – encompasses helping homeless
11 individuals and families find appropriate rental or permanent housing in the
12 community, and contacting and recruiting landlords, proprietors, and
13 developers to provide housing opportunities for individuals and families
14 experiencing homelessness. It shall include aid in the aspects of short-term
15 or medium-term rental assistance and tenant qualifications, completion of
16 applications and preparation for interviews with landlords, proprietors, and
17 developers, and helping households to determine if a housing option meets
18 their needs and preferences, and help with moving or relocation;

19 b. *Rent and Move-in Assistance* – the program shall offer financial assistance to
20 cover move-in costs, deposits, and the rental and/or utility assistance
21 necessary to allow individuals and families to move immediately out of
22 homelessness and stabilize in permanent housing; and

23 c. *Case Management and Other Supportive Services* – which shall include:

24 i. Job and/or livelihood assistance;

25 ii. Educational assistance or skills training;

26 iii. Free legal assistance for handling pending cases which directly caused
27 homelessness such as eviction, rental arrearages, etc.;

28 iv. Assistance with permanent housing applications;

- 1 v. Regular home visits by the local social welfare and development office;
2 and
3 vi. Referral to other government programs and subsidies, where
4 appropriate.

5 SECTION 5. *Inventory of Available Rental and Housing Units.* – For purposes
6 of implementing the Rapid Re-Housing Program, the DHSUD shall create and maintain
7 an inventory of all available rental and housing units wherein program beneficiaries
8 can be quickly re-housed or relocated.

9 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of
10 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations of the DHSUD for the
11 year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

12 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
13 the effectivity of this Act, the DHSUD, in coordination with other relevant government
14 agencies, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions
15 of this Act.

16 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and
17 regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
18 amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

19 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section, subsection,
20 clause, or term of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, such parts not affected
21 by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

22 SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
24 circulation.

25 *Approved,*