

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 767

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ensuring that the most basic needs of the people are met should be the priority of the government, and there are few needs as basic as the need for food. This is particularly important for children, considering that proper nutrition is essential for their mental and physical development.

This bill, based on House Bill No. 6062, filed by Rep. Leni Gerona-Robredo last 16<sup>th</sup> Congress, with minor changes on the qualifications of the Chairperson of the Food Council, attempts to vastly improve the nutrition received by Filipino children, and to do so in a way that also supports our Small Scale Producers, creating a mutually beneficial system moving forward.

*Emmeline Y. Aglipay*

EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY – VILLAR  
Representative, DIWA Party-list

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**AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR ADDRESSING  
THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE PROVIDING FOR ITS  
PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the “National Food Security Act of 2016.”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy** - It is, hereby, declared a policy of the State to develop, create, and implement a nationwide feeding program to alleviate poverty and hunger in the country. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ratified by the Philippines, states everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food. Furthermore, the Constitution states "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

**Chapter I**

**National Feeding Program**

**SECTION 3. National Feeding program** — There is, hereby, established a National Feeding Program which shall aim to alleviate hunger and malnutrition for children ages 0 – 13 years old.

**SECTION 4. Creation of a National Hunger Targeting System** – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Health (DOH) shall establish a nationwide database that identifies groups and/or individuals that have the least access to proper

nutrition. The database shall identify the most vulnerable groups and/or individuals to be listed as beneficiaries.

**SECTION 5. Infant feeding program** – The DOH, in consultation with DSWD, shall create a system of distribution through the Barangay Health Workers of food packets for those targeted by the system created in this Act. The said food packets shall supplement the nutritional and dietary needs of children ages 0–1 year olds.

**SECTION 6. Supplementary Feeding Program** – The DSWD shall ensure that children ages 2 – 5 receive the proper nutrients and diet while under their care. Beneficiaries shall be given meals that will meet their nutritional needs. The DSWD may consult with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) to meet the proper nutritional and dietary needs of the children. The following shall be the beneficiaries:

- a) Children 2–4 years old in the Supervised Neighborhood Play (SNP) Area;
- b) Children 3–4 years old enrolled in Day Care Centers (DDC), and;
- c) Children 5 years old not enrolled in the Department of Education (DepEd) preschool system but enrolled in DDCs.

**SECTION 7. Elementary Feeding School Program** – The DepEd shall ensure that students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 are given the proper meals during school hours. Such meals should contain the proper nutritional and dietary needs of students. The DepEd shall consult the NNC nutritional and dietary specifics.

## **Chapter II**

### **Procurement**

**SECTION 8. Procurement of Produce** – The Government is, hereby, mandated to ensure that 30% or more of the supplies needed to implement the National Feeding Program are procured from Small-Scale Producers.

**SECTION 9. Registry of Small-Scale Producers** – The DA shall keep and regularly update a list of Small-Scale Producers. It shall use the Registry for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), Regional Field Office (RFO) list of beneficiaries, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources's National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration (BFAR FishR) for fisherfolk, and any other list it may deem necessary to keep the registry up to date. Furthermore, the DA is required to coordinate with the DSWD to cross-match and compare the registry with the DSWD's National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) to avoid duplication and redundancy.

**SECTION 10. Procurement process for Small-Scale Producers** — For the purposes of this act, procurement from Small Scale producers shall be exempted from the procurement process as stated in Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Procurement Law. Provided, small scale producers shall undergo Negotiated Procurement

Participation under the guidelines of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) and as specified under this act.

**SECTION 11. Negotiated Procurement Participation** — Small Scale Producers shall enter a Negotiated Procurement with the government under the guidelines of the GPPB when the following conditions are met:

- a) DA Validation – certification from the DA and/or any of its tasked agencies that the individual or family is indeed included in the Registry of Small Scale Farmers.
- b) Produce/Product Sustainability – when participants have the ability to continue to meet the demand for their produce or product for prolonged periods of time, with or without government intervention.
- c) Community Enrichment – when there is a viable means of improving the wellbeing of the community where the small scale farmers are situated. This seeks to extend the benefits that may arise from the contract between the small scale farmers and the government. The goal is to achieve positive outcomes such as poverty reduction, access to education, equitable distribution and management of natural resources, climate change adaptation/mitigation, disaster risk reduction, gender equality, disease reduction, and job generation, among others.

**SECTION 12. Support Services for Small-Scale Producers under the Department of Agriculture** – The DA shall institute the following benefits for Small-Scale Producers as contained in their registry.

- a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and any other topic the DA sees fit;
- b) Subsidized Farm Equipment;
- c) Facilities for storage and harvesting;
- d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer;
- e) Access to Crop Insurance;
- f) Access to credit/low interest rates.

**SECTION 13. Support Services for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale Producers** - The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall institute the following benefits for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries who are Small-Scale Producers as contained in their list of beneficiaries.

- a) Training on Production, Harvesting, Procurement Process of this Act, and any other topic the DAR sees fit;
- b) Subsidized Farm Equipment;
- c) Facilities for storage and harvesting;
- d) Capacity Building for Small-Scale Farmer;

- e) Access to Crop Insurance;
- f) Access to credit/low interest rates.

### **Chapter III**

#### **Food Council**

**SECTION 14. National Food Security Council** - A National Food Security Council, hereafter referred to as Council, is hereby created as an attached and independent agency to the Office of the President.

**SECTION 15. Mandate of the Council** - The Council is mandated to act as the check and balance organization for the food security system. It shall oversee the effective distribution, procurement, and targeting of beneficiaries as mandated in this Act. It shall also serve as a coordinating body for the different departments involved in the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 16. Chairperson of the Council** - The Chairperson of the Council shall be appointed to a six year term by the President of the Philippines. No person may be Chairperson if he has not met the following criteria:

- a) Ten (10) years of work experience in the field of Food Security;
- b) Has no relatives, to the second degree of consanguinity, in the government;
- c) Has good moral character;
- d) No pending cases.

**SECTION 17. Membership of the Council** - The Council shall consist of the following members.

- a) Representative from the Department of Agriculture;
- b) Representative from the Department of Agrarian Reform;
- c) Representative from the Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- d) Representative from the Department of Interior and Local Government;
- e) Representative from the Department of Education;
- f) Representative from the Department of Health;
- g) Representative from the National Nutritional Council;
- h) Representative from the Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute;
- i) Four (4) Representatives from Civil Society involved in Food Security or Hunger alleviation;
- j) Four (4) Representatives from Small-Scale Producers group.

