

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Fourteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1126



Introduced by Gabriela Women's Party
Representative LIZA LARGOZA-MAZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the deregulation of the downstream oil industry through RA 8180, prices of petroleum products have incessantly increased. The said act immediately removed the government's control over price setting of all petroleum products that includes Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and kerosene. In effect, it is the toiling masses that carry the brunt of its impacts.

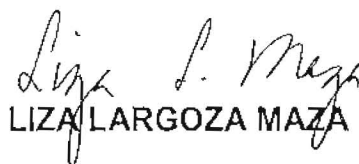
LPG and kerosene are considered basic necessities in every household. They are considered as socially sensitive products, or products, which prices are susceptible to change due to certain economic movements or activities. Ironically, both petroleum products are not included in the list of basic necessities provided in Section three (3), Definition of Terms of Republic Act 7580, otherwise known as the "Price Act," an act which provides protection to consumers by stabilizing the prices of basic necessities and prime commodities by prescribing measures against undue price increases during emergency situations and like occasions.

From January to October this year, prices of petroleum products have increased thirteen (13) times. Prices of LPG have increased ten (10) times for the same period and being feared by consumers to reached as high as P500.00 by January next year. Oil companies justify these series of increases by citing the unstable movement of prices of oil per barrel in the world market.

While minimum wage in Metro Manila is pegged at P250.00 since 2000, cost of living continuously increases along with the Consumer Price Index. According to a study conducted by a non-government think-tank, cost of living in the Philippines for a family of six (6) is P484.31 a day in September this year. With these economic scenarios, another price increase in prices of commodities is too much to take for the battered poor Filipino people.

It is in this light and amidst clamors and protests of various women and consumer's groups that this bill is being proposed. This House Bill sought to include LPG and kerosene in the list of basic necessities provided by RA 7581 to give relief to the grievances of the consumers especially the marginalized women and their families.

In view of the above, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
TO INCLUDE LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) AND KEROSENE IN THE LIST OF BASIC NECESSITIES IN SECTION THREE (3), DEFINITION OF TERMS OF REPUBLIC ACT 7581, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PRICE ACT"

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

SECTION 1. Section 3, paragraph (1) of Republic Act No. 7581 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, the term:

- (1) "Basic Necessities" includes: rice, corn, bread, fish, dried and canned fish and other marine products, fresh pork, beef and poultry meat; fresh eggs; fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables; root crops; coffee; sugar; cooking oil; salt; laundry soap; detergents; firewood; charcoal; **[LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG); KEROSENE]**; candles; and drugs classified as essential by the Department of Health."

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause – All Laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity Clause – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,