EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State is mandated to enact measures to reduce economic inequalities and ensure the promotion of economic opportunities for all. Pursuant to this, the Personnel Economic Relief Allowance (PERA) was implemented for the government to provide additional allowance to its public servants. It was first implemented in 1991 with the intent of providing emergency allowance to government employees as a relief mechanism to cushion the impact of irrepressible economic crisis on low-income and middle-income wage earners.¹

In 2009, the PERA was increased from five hundred pesos (P500.00) to two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) per month, following the changing economic conditions of the times. Indeed, this subsidy grant has deeply enhanced the financial capacity of our ordinary civil servants against the constant price increases of basic commodities and living expenses.

A decade has passed but the amount of the PERA subsidy has remained the same despite the changing economic circumstances in our country. Surging inflation rates have contributed additional economic burden to our government workers who rely on the PERA for their supplementary monthly subsistence. Essentially, not only the increase in the amount of the PERA is needed but also its constant adjustment for the protection and welfare of our government workers.

Considering the above facts and also to recognize the service our government workers have continuously rendered for the country, this bill seeks to increase the PERA from two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to four thousand pesos (P4,000.00).

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly requested.

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 5096

Introduced by Representative VICTOR A. YAP

AN ACT
INCREASING TO FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P4,000) THE MONTHLY PERSONNEL
ECONOMIC RELIEF ALLOWANCE (PERA) GRANTED TO GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES, AND PROVIDING FOR AN AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT
MECHANISM THEREOF, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
give highest priority to promote measures that reduce economic inequalities and promote
economic opportunities for all. The State shall likewise pursue the formulation of policies for the
improvement of the quality of life for its citizens, especially for government workers. Towards
this end, the State shall provide a financial relief assistance program for government workers,
both as subsidy and safeguard in times of economic uncertainties resulting in the constant
increase of living and other substantial expenses.

SEC. 2 Objectives. - The objectives of this Act shall be as follows:
(a) To increase the financial assistance to government workers;
(b) To ensure the adequate provision of financial assistance in line with the economic
changes of the times;
(c) To promote the economic security of all government workers;
(d) To recognize the significant contribution of government workers in nation-
building and public service.

SEC. 3 Increase in Monthly Allowance. - The Personnel Economic Relief Allowance
(PERA) granted to government employees is hereby increased from the present Two Thousand
Pesos (P2,000) per month to Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000) per month effective January 1, 2020.
SEC. 4 Automatic Adjustment Mechanism. - The PERA being granted to employees of the government shall be subject to an automatic annual adjustment equivalent to any increase of the annual inflation rate in the country.

SEC 5. Coverage. - The PERA shall be granted to civilian government personnel whether employed by the national or local governments, appointive or elective, and whether occupying regular, contractual, or casual positions, whose positions are covered by Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the "Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989," as amended, as well as to military and uniformed personnel, Provided, that government personnel stationed abroad already receiving overseas allowances shall not be entitled to the provisions of this Act.

SEC 6. Funding. - The funds necessary to implement the benefit herein authorized for national government employees shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. For Local Government Units (LGUs), the benefit shall be charged against respective local funds. Any deficiency shall be charged against the unexpended balances of CY 2019 Appropriations of LGUs which are hereby authorized to be realigned for the purpose herein. Thereafter, the amount necessary shall be provided in their respective annual local budgets. For Government-owned and/or -Controlled Corporations, the benefit shall be charged against their respective corporate funds.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Budget and Management shall issue the implementing rules and regulations not later than thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rules and regulations, or portion thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,