

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11552, May 27, 2021]

AN ACT EXTENDING AND ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIFELINE RATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 73 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10150

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

SECTION 1. *Extension of Lifeline Rate.* - Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Act of 2001," as amended by Republic Act No. 10150, extending the implementation of the lifeline rate, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 73. *Lifeline Rate.* - In order to provide assistance to electricity consumers, especially those living below the poverty line, and to achieve a more equitable distribution of the lifeline subsidy, a socialized pricing mechanism called a lifeline rate for qualified marginalized end-users shall be set by the ERC which shall be exempted from the cross subsidy phase-out under this Act for a period of fifty (50) years, unless otherwise extended by law. The level of consumption, subsidy, and rate shall be determined by the ERC after due notice and hearing: *Provided, That* the ERC shall primarily utilize data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in the determination of the level of consumption.

"Qualified marginalized end-users shall refer to any of the following:

"(a) Qualified household-beneficiaries under Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act," as regularly submitted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the DOE, the ERC, and the distribution utility, whose level of consumption shall be within the threshold determined by the ERC, are qualified marginalized end-users under this Act; or

"(b) Marginalized end-users who have been certified and continually validated as such by their distribution utility based on a criteria determined by the ERC: *Provided, That* the criteria shall take into account, among others, the poverty threshold set by the PSA, and shall contain an exclusive list of requirements to be submitted to the distribution utility: *Provided, further, That* the exclusive list of requirements shall be simplified and reasonable for the applicant: *Provided, furthermore, That* the distribution utility shall act on the application for certification as a marginalized end-user within two (2) working days from submission of complete documentary requirements: *Provided, finally, That* the distribution utility's action on the application shall be within ten (10) working days during the initial implementation of this Act.