

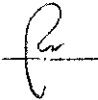
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'11 MAY 19 P2:46

SENATE  
S. No. 2835

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution provides:

Article 2, Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them

Article 15, Section 1. The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development.

According to UNICEF, more than one third of child deaths occur during the first fragile months of life. Early breastfeeding provides critical nutrients, protects infants against deadly diseases, and fosters growth and development.

UNICEF estimates that exclusive breastfeeding from birth up to the age of six months can prevent the deaths of 1.3 million children under the age of five each year.

The UN World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that all children be exclusively breastfed for six months, and believes colostrum – the sticky, yellowish substance that is rich in antibodies and produced by the mother soon after birth – is the perfect food for every newborn. However, due to a widespread lack of awareness of its qualities and its key roles in contributing to the health and growth of newborns, colostrum is frequently discarded. According to the agency, feeding water or other liquids deprives babies of a good start in life.

This bill seeks to promote awareness on breastfeeding amongst couples seeking to get married by mandating that all applicants for a marriage license receive instructions and information on breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

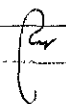
This is the Senate counterpart bill to House Bill No. 3088 filed by Representative Anna York P. Bondoc, MD.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO *zala*



SENATE  
S. No. 2835

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1 AN ACT  
2 TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING  
3 AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Family Support for  
5 Breastfeeding Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Principles and State Policies.* – The State shall protect and  
7 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State  
8 likewise recognizes the sanctity of family as a basic autonomous social institution.

9 The State upholds that preparation for responsible parenthood should start even prior to  
10 the celebration of marriage so as to allow prospective husband and wife ample time to consider  
11 their options and priorities. Towards this end, a comprehensive and effective responsible  
12 parenthood program should also include promotion of breastfeeding and proper infant nutrition  
13 as an inherent component of each child’s right to enjoy, and each parent’s responsibility to  
14 provide, the highest attainable standard of health.

15 SECTION 3. *Mandate.* – The Office of Family Planning in every city and municipality is  
16 hereby mandated to give instructions and information not only pertaining to family planning and  
17 responsible parenthood but also to breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

18 The city or municipal health officer shall continue to be assisted by the city or rural  
19 health nurse, members of the city or rural health unit, and such other personnel from different  
20 agencies of the government involved in efforts towards promotion of responsible parenthood.

21 SECTION 4. *Certificate of Compliance.* – Pursuant to Section 3 of Presidential Decree  
22 No. 965, no marriage license shall be issued by the Local Civil Registrar unless the applicants

1 present a Certificate of Compliance issued by the Family Planning Officer certifying that they  
2 had duly received comprehensive instructions and information on family planning, responsible  
3 parenthood, breastfeeding, and infant nutrition.

4 The instructions and information shall be given, and the certificate of compliance shall be  
5 issued, free of charge.

6 SECTION 5. *Assistance of Government Agencies.* – Agencies of the government shall  
7 assist the Family Planning Offices in order to further promote and support family planning and  
8 responsible parenthood. Towards this end, the Department of Health, the Department of Social  
9 Welfare and Development and the Population Commission shall furnish each Family Planning  
10 Office with the proper information and resources on current studies and research related to  
11 family planning, responsible parenthood, breastfeeding, and infant nutrition.

12 SECTION 6. *Assistance from the Private Sector.* – The Family Planning Office may  
13 request volunteer doctors, nurses, or duly-licensed health professionals or health care workers to  
14 assist in giving the instructions and information mandated by this Act: *Provided,* That in no  
15 event shall anyone promote, endorse, market, or do any act tending to promote or endorse any  
16 commercially-produced and/or commercially-sold product or any paid medical, health, or  
17 wellness service.

18 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared to be  
19 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby  
20 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

21 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or  
22 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

23 SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
24 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,