

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session

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SENATE

S. No. 620

RECEIVED BY: *Dele*

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.


EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a policy, the State gives importance to education as this will mold its citizens into productive members of society.

Aware that education starts even before a child enters kindergarten and that infancy and childhood are very crucial periods in the development of a person, this proposed measure provides for the establishment of a literacy program for all expectant mothers in all hospitals and similar establishments.

The literacy program is expected to equip expectant mothers with appropriate skills and knowledge as the child's first teacher and nurse.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING THAT ALL HOSPITALS, CLINICS, HEALTH CENTERS AND
OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS RENDERING MATERNITY
SERVICES SHALL ESTABLISH LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR ALL
EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to promote the provision of formal and informal venues for maternal literacy in the community level in order to assist parents in preparation for their vital role in the molding of a future generation of intelligent, morally upright, healthy and psychologically stable Filipinos.

SECTION 2. *Coverage.*- All public and private hospitals, clinics, health centers and other similar establishments rendering maternity services shall provide literacy programs to all expectant mothers within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. For this purpose, the literacy programs shall include a reading and music room or corner in such establishments, equipped with reading materials such as nursery rhymes, bedtime stories and other children's books and where recorded music can be played.

SECTION 3. *Lead Agency.* - The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, that shall include the penalty of cancellation of license to operate plus payment of fines not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not to exceed One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00).

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.*- The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be Included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) major newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,