

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



16 FEB -1 P3 09

SENATE  
S. No. 3186

RECEIVED BY: 

---

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

---

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM PROVIDING FOR GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE OFFICES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENT SERVICES FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS, PARENTING STUDENTS, PROSPECTIVE PARENTING STUDENTS WHO ARE ANTICIPATING A BIRTH OR ADOPTION, AND STUDENTS WHO ARE PLACING OR HAVE PLACED A CHILD FOR ADOPTION**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 12 provides that:

**Sec. 12.** The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government.

Student parents have been increasing in numbers over the past few years. This phenomenon is highly attributed to teen pregnancy. A recent World Bank Report includes the Philippines as one of the 10 countries with increasing rates of teen pregnancy. Bishop Evangelista of the Diocese of Boac in Marinduque said the media's emphasis on sex had encouraged early sexual activity among teenagers.<sup>1</sup>

However, instead of debating the cause of these incidents, we need to help the young parents who need our guidance and assistance to stay in school and pursue their dreams in spite of their unplanned parenthood. A program that educates these student parents will go a long way in reaching out to them and keeping them in school where

---

<sup>1</sup> Bishop blames media, Internet for increased teen pregnancy. 26 September 2008. GMANews.tv


they can continue their education. This program can also assist in informing our students about teen pregnancy in order to help them make informed choices. This bill seeks to mandate the Department of Education to enlist the participation of our educational institutions in teaching our students the value of responsible parenting. By doing so, we do not only help student parents but we also help prevent unwanted pregnancies from happening in campuses.<sup>2</sup>

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
28

---

<sup>2</sup> This bill was originally filed in the Fifteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

SENATE  
S. No. 3186

RECEIVED BY: 

---

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

---

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE  
ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH AND  
OPERATE PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENT SERVICES OFFICES FOR  
PREGNANT STUDENTS, PARENTING STUDENTS, PROSPECTIVE PARENTING  
STUDENTS WHO ARE ANTICIPATING A BIRTH OR ADOPTION, AND  
STUDENTS WHO ARE PLACING OR HAVE PLACED A CHILD FOR ADOPTION

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Pregnant and  
2 Parenting Student Services Act."

3 SECTION 2. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act, the term –

4 A. "Eligible Institution of Higher Education" means an institution of higher  
5 education that has established and operates, or agrees to establish and  
6 operate upon the receipt of a grant under this Act, a pregnant and parenting  
7 student services office described in Section 6;

8 B. "Parenting" means the exercise of parental authority (as defined in  
9 Executive Order No, 209, as amended, or the Family Code); and

10 C. "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

11 SECTION 3. *Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Pilot Program.* - From  
12 amounts appropriated under Section 8 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall establish a  
13 pilot program to award grants to eligible institutions of higher education to enable the

1 eligible institutions to establish (or maintain) and operate pregnant and parenting student  
2 services offices in accordance with Section 6.

3 **SECTION 4. *Application; Number of Grants.* –**

4 **A. Application-** An eligible institution of higher education that desires to receive  
5 a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such  
6 time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may  
7 require.

8 **B. Requests for Additional Information-** The Secretary may require an eligible  
9 institution submitting an application under paragraph (A) of this section to  
10 provide additional information if the Secretary determines such information is  
11 necessary to process the application.

12 **C. Number of Grants-** The Secretary shall award grants under this Act to not  
13 more than two eligible institutions of higher education per administrative  
14 region, except that the Secretary may award grants to not more than four  
15 institutions in the National Capital Region.

16 **SECTION 5. *Matching Requirement.* –** An eligible institution of higher education  
17 that receives a grant under this Act shall contribute to the conduct of the pregnant and  
18 parenting student services office. This grant shall be equivalent to the grant amount from  
19 a non-government organization. The non-government share may be in cash or in kind,  
20 fairly evaluated, including services, facilities, supplies, or equipment.

21 **SECTION 6. *Use of Funds.* –** An eligible institution of higher education that  
22 receives a grant under this Act shall use grant funds to establish (or maintain) and operate  
23 a pregnant and parenting student services office, located on the campus of the eligible  
24 institution that carries out the following programs and activities:

25 **A. Hosts an initial pregnancy and parenting resource forum–**

1           1. to assess pregnancy and parenting resources, located on the campus or  
2           within the local community, that are available to meet the needs described  
3           in Section 6, paragraph (B); and

4           2. to set goals for—

5                 a. improving such resources for pregnant, parenting, and prospective  
6                 parenting students; and

7                 b. improving access to such resources.

8           B. Annually assesses the performance of the eligible institution and the office in  
9           meeting the following needs of students enrolled in the eligible institution who  
10          are pregnant or are parents:

11                 1. The inclusion of maternity coverage and the availability of riders for  
12                 additional family members in student health care;

13                 2. Family housing;

14                 3. Child care;

15                 4. Flexible or alternative academic scheduling, such as telecommuting  
16                 programs;

17                 5. Education to improve parenting skills for mothers and fathers;

18                 6. Resources to assist parents and prospective parents in meeting the  
19                 material needs of their children; and

20                 7. Post-partum counseling and support groups.

21          C. Identifies public and private service providers, located on the campus of the  
22          eligible institution or within the local community, that are qualified to meet the  
23          needs described in Section 6, paragraph (B), and establishes programs with  
24          qualified providers to meet such needs.

25          E. If appropriate, provides referrals for prenatal care and delivery, infant or foster  
26          care, or adoption, to a student who requests such information. An office shall

1 make such referrals only to service providers that primarily serve the following  
2 types of individuals:

- 3 1. Parents;
- 4 2. Prospective parents awaiting adoption;
- 5 3. Women who are pregnant and plan on parenting or placing the child for  
6 adoption;
- 7 4. Parenting or prospective parenting couples who are married or who plan  
8 on marrying in order to provide a supportive environment for each other  
9 and their child.

10 Expanded Services- In carrying out the programs and activities  
11 described under this Section, an eligible institution of higher education  
12 receiving a grant under this Act may choose to provide access to such  
13 programs and activities to a pregnant or parenting employee of the eligible  
14 institution, and the employee's spouse.

15 SECTION 7. *Annual Report by Institutions.* – For each fiscal year that an eligible  
16 institution of higher education receives a grant under this Act, the eligible institution shall  
17 prepare and submit to the Secretary, by the date determined by the Secretary, a report  
18 that–

- 19 A. itemizes the pregnant and parenting student services office's expenditures for  
20 the fiscal year;
- 21 B. contains a review and evaluation of the performance of the office in fulfilling  
22 the requirements of this Act, using the specific performance criteria or  
23 standards established under Section 7, paragraph (A); and
- 24 C. describes the achievement of the office in meeting the needs listed in Section 6,  
25 paragraph (B) of the students served by the eligible institution, and the  
26 frequency of use of the office by such students.

1           SECTION 8. Performance Criteria. – Not later than 180 days before the date the  
2 annual report described in Section 7 is submitted, the Secretary–

3           A. shall identify the specific performance criteria or standards that shall be used to  
4           prepare the report; and

5           B. shall establish the form or format of the report.  
6

7           SECTION 9. Additional Information. – After reviewing an annual report of an  
8 eligible institution of higher education, the Secretary may require that the eligible  
9 institution provide additional information if the Secretary determines that such additional  
10 information is necessary to evaluate the pilot program.

11          SECTION 10. *Report by the Secretary.* – The Secretary shall annually prepare and  
12 submit a report on the findings of the pilot program under this Act, including the number  
13 of eligible institutions of higher education that were awarded grants and the number of  
14 students served by each pregnant and parenting services office receiving funds under this  
15 Act, to the appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

16          SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial  
17 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department  
18 of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may  
19 be necessary for its full implementation shall be included in the annual General  
20 Appropriations Act as a distinct and separate item.

21          SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held  
22 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise  
23 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

24          SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
25 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to

1 or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended  
2 accordingly.

3 SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
4 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/lfd 23Nov2015