

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

)
)
) '22 JUL 18 P4:55

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. B. NO. 735

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT
REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFANT-FRIENDLY
FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Parents with little children in tow often find it difficult to enjoy their food while eating out, especially if the food service establishment does not have child-friendly seats. In addition, they also have difficulty finding an appropriate place to change the diapers of their babies in public places.

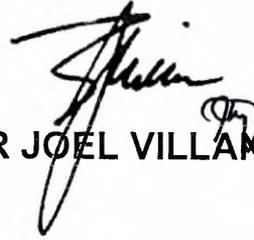
This bill seeks to provide relief to these parents by requiring food service establishments to provide child-friendly seats, and for major establishments and all government offices to have at least one diaper-changing station in each floor of their establishment and/or offices, accessible by both parents. Major establishments include malls, shopping centers, theaters, movie houses, convention centers, sports arenas, auditoriums, cultural complexes, exhibition halls, permanent amusement parks, health facilities, restaurants that can seat 50 people or more, gasoline stations that have restrooms that are open to the public, and establishments measuring 25,000 feet or more.

Covered establishments are also given one year from the effectivity of this Act to comply with these requirements. Any establishment found non-compliant with the foregoing requirements shall be meted a penalty of Php2,000 per day of violation.

Requiring child-friendly seats in these establishments seeks to ensure that patrons of food service establishments will be free from worry and anxiety when their children are present with them at these establishments. It also gives them comfort that they have an accessible place to go to when their children need to change.

Indeed, the passage of this bill is in accord with the Article 2 of the Consumer Act of the Philippines, which provides that "[i]t is the policy of the State to protect the interests of the consumer, promote his general welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry" and to "implement measures [for their] protection against hazards to health and safety[.]"

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Villanueva', with a stylized flourish at the end.

SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

22 JUL 18 P4:55

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. B. NO. 735

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT
REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFANT-FRIENDLY FACILITIES IN
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Infant-
2 Friendly Facilities Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes that all Filipinos
5 are entitled to access to convenient facilities that will enable them to properly
6 undertake their childcare responsibilities. Towards this end, the State shall
7 ensure that these facilities are sanitary, safe and readily available and
8 accessible for all persons, with specialized seating for infants and children.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – The following terms shall be used in this
11 Act:
12

- 13 a) **Common Seating** shall refer to the actual number of seats available for
14 customers of a particular food service establishment;
15
16 b) **Child-Friendly Seating** shall refer to high chairs or any seating apparatus
17 with safety features that will allow infants or children to be seated at tables
18 or counters at an elevated distance from the ground;
19
20 c) **Early-stage child** shall mean any child of any age whose size and
21 developmental stage allows placement in child-friendly seating
22 equipment;
23
24 d) **Diaper-changing station** shall mean an area where both male and
25 female can change the diaper of a child. The station shall accommodate

1 at least a twenty (20)-pound child and shall have a trash bin for the
2 disposal of diapers. It shall also have hand washing facilities in good
3 working condition;
4

5 e) **Food Service Establishment** shall mean any privately-owned facility
6 business, firm or enterprise that is primarily oriented towards the provision
7 of food and related services. These include restaurants, eateries or other
8 facilities located within malls or other larger structures, as well as those
9 establishments that have their own independent infrastructure. This does
10 not apply to food service establishments that do not allow persons under
11 eighteen (18) years of age to enter the premises;
12

13 f) **Government offices** shall mean all local and national government offices,
14 agencies, and government owned and controlled corporations; and
15

16 g) **Major establishments** shall include malls, shopping centers, theaters,
17 movie houses, convention centers, sports arenas, auditoriums, cultural
18 complexes, exhibition halls, permanent amusement parks, health
19 facilities, restaurants that can seat fifty (50) people or more, gasoline
20 stations that have restrooms that are open to the public, and
21 establishments measuring twenty-five thousand (25,000) feet or more,
22 excluding industrial buildings and nightclubs or bars that do not permit
23 anyone who is under eighteen (18) years of age to enter the premises,
24 among others;
25

26 h) **Patrons** refer to any individual or group that avails of any of the offered
27 food, as well as the services of the food service establishment.
28
29

30 I. ACCESS TO CHILD FRIENDLY SEATING

31
32 **SEC. 4. Provision of Child-Friendly Seating.** – Food service
33 establishments are required to have, at all times, child-friendly seating
34 equipment for patrons that have at least one (1) early-stage child present with
35 them at the time that they procure the food or the services of the establishment.
36

37 **SEC. 5. Proportion of Child-Friendly Seating to Common Seating.** –
38 Food service establishments shall have at least one (1) child-friendly seat for
39 every ten (10) common seats available.
40
41

42 II. ACCESS TO DIAPER-CHANGING STATIONS FOR MEN'S AND 43 WOMEN'S RESTROOMS

44
45 **SEC. 6. General.** – All major establishments and government offices
46 shall have at least one (1) safe, sanitary, and convenient baby diaper-changing
47 station that is accessible to both male and female; *Provided*, That a diaper-
48 changing station shall be available in each floor occupied by the major
49 establishment and the government office.
50

1 **SEC. 7. *Exceptions.*** – Section 6 of this Act shall not apply to a
2 restaurant with a seating capacity of at least fifty (50) people, if there is a
3 centrally located facility with a baby diaper-changing station located within three
4 hundred (300) feet of the entrance to the restaurant.
5

6 **SEC. 8. *Transition Period.*** – All covered establishments , including
7 government offices, existing at the time of the approval of this Act shall have a
8 period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act to comply with the
9 provisions hereof.
10

11 **SEC. 9. *Penalties.*** – A major establishment or food service
12 establishment that fails to comply with any provisions of this Act shall be liable
13 for a fine of up to Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) for every day of violation.
14

15 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60)
16 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH) and other
17 relevant stakeholders shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations
18 for the proper implementation of this Act.
19

20 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held
21 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not
22 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.
23

24 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
25 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
26 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
27 modified or amended accordingly.
28

29 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
30 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
31 general circulation.
32

33 **Approved,**