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FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES
)
First Regular Session
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SENATE No. 1675 HEORINED BY: 4

TIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Breastfeeding infants provides protection against major illnesses in children such as respiratory infections, diarrhea and malnutrition and reduces risk of degenerative diseases well into adulthood, and ensures material health by protecting against hemorrhage, anemia, certain cancers as well as facilitating the recovery of mothers from rigors of pregnancy and birth and helping prevent closely spaced pregnancies.

Breastfeeding is the most far-reaching and least costly Poverty Alleviation Strategy of developing countries, especially in the Philippines where breastfeeding culture is being diminished beyond all reason, even as it addresses the issues of not only economy, but also national health, ecology, empowerment of women, bonding between mother and child, love and faith.

In a press statement issued on 1 August 2005, President Arroyo said breastfeeding will also contribute to the country's economy, pointing out that 99 percent of milk formula sold in the market is imported. "If all lactating mothers at any given time exclusively breastfeed their infant up to six months, we would save \$57 million worth of milk formula per week."

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE S. No. <u>1675</u> BECHARDON A.

	Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago
1 2 3	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BREASTFEEDING CENTER IN EVERY BARANGAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
4 5	Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:
6	SECTION 1. Short Title This Act shall be known as the "Barangay Breastfeeding
7	Centers Act of 2007."
8	SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the general
9	welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, it shall promote breastfeeding as a means to
10	provide protection against major illnesses in children such as respiratory infections, diarrhea and
11	malnutrition. The State shall likewise promote breastfeeding as a means to ensure material health
12	by protecting against hemorrhage, anemia, certain cancers as well as facilitating the recovery of
13	mothers from rigors of pregnancy and birth and helping prevent closely spaced pregnancies.
14	SECTION 3. Definition of Terms For purposes of this Act, the term:
15	(A)"Breastfeeding" mean feeding of the child directly from the breast or the expression
16	on milk from the breast of a lactating woman;
17	(B) "Barangay breastfeeding centers" means breastfeeding centers situated in every
18	barangay which provide breastfeeding services such as information on proper
19	breastfeeding method and proper use of breastfeeding materials;
20	(C) "Barangay breastfeeding personnel" authorized health workers assigned by the
21	municipal health office to supervise the healthcare facilities in each barangay; and
22	(D) "Breastfeeding materials" means materials used to aid lactating mothers in
23	breastfeeding which include medicines, vitamins, breast pumps and other useful

- paraphernalia; materials shall also include breastfeeding milk supplements to be 1 supplied by the barangay breastfeeding centers. 2
- SECTION 4. Establishment of Barangay Breastfeeding Centers. If the barangay health 3 center in a particular barangay already has sufficient space and equipment to facilitate the 4 barangay breastfeeding program, the barangay breastfeeding center shall be integrated within the 5 barangay health center. If the barangay health center is not sufficiently equipped to facilitate the 6 breastfeeding centers, a separate breastfeeding center shall be built. 7
 - SECTION 5. Campaign Regarding Breastfeeding and Its Importance to the Health of Infants and Mothers. - The barangay breastfeeding personnel shall also conduct periodical campaigns involving information dissemination on the importance of breastfeeding for the health of mothers and infants.

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- SECTION 6. Breastfeeding Equipment and Supplements. Constituents of every barangay shall avail of the services and facililties of barangay breastfeeding centers for free. No payment in any form shall be accepted by the personnel of the breastfeeding centers. They shall however, be allowed to receive donations in the form of breastfeeding materials and supplements.
- SECTION 7. Who are Entitled to Avail of the Services and Facilities of Breastfeeding 17 Centers. - All residents of the respective barangays shall be entitled to avail of the services of the 18 barangay breastfeeding centers. 19
 - SECTION 8. Funding for Barangay Breastfeeding Centers. The funds to be used for the barangay breastfeeding centers shall be allocated from the budget of the respective local government units. The respective barangay councils shall also allocate budget for the breastfeeding centers from the budget of their respective barangays.
- SECTION 9. Monitoring and Inspection of Barangay Breastfeeding Centers. The municipal or city health office having jurisdiction over the respective barangay shall monitor and 25 inspect the services and facilities of every barangay breastfeeding center at least once every 26

- month. The municipal/city health office shall ensure that every breastfeeding center has sufficient equipment and are able to efficiently service the needs of constituents.
- SECTION 10. Trainings and Seminars. The barangay breastfeeding personnel should undergo trainings and seminars to improve and update their skills in providing breastfeeding services. The municipal or city health offices, in coordination with the barangay officials of every barangay, shall schedule breastfeeding trainings and seminars at least once every six months.
 - SECTION 11. Implementing Agencies. The Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the local government units shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.
- SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for this Act within sixty (60) days upon its effectivity.
- SECTION 13. Separability Clause. If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.
- SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
- SECTION 15. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
- 22 Approved,

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RCC 9/22/06