

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 10 54

SENATE
S. No. 1532

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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.¹

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 the student parents will go a long way in reaching out to them and keeping them in schools where they can continue their education. This program can also assist in informing our students about teen pregnancy in order to help them make more informed choices.

This bill seeks to mandate the Department of Education enlist the participation of our educational institutions in teaching our students the value of responsible parenting. By doing so,

¹ Bishop blames media, Internet for increased teen pregnancy. September 26, 2008. GMA News.tv

we not only will help our unfortunate student parents but we'll also be able to prevent such unfortunate incidents from proliferating in our campuses.²

cc *Miriam Defensor Santiago*
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

² This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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AN ACT

TO ESTABLISH 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:*

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

SECTION 2. *Definitions.* – The purposes of this Act the term –

A. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION - means an institution of
higher education that has established and operates, or agrees to establish and
operate upon the receipt of a grant under this Act, a pregnant and parenting
student services office described in section 6;

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

C. SECRETARY - means the Secretary of Education.

SECTION 3. *Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Pilot Program.* – From amounts
appropriated under section 8 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to
award grants to eligible institutions of higher education to enable the eligible institutions to
establish (or maintain) and operate pregnant and parenting student services offices in accordance
with section 6.

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

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

5 B. Requests for Additional Information- The Secretary may require an eligible
6 institution submitting an application under Paragraph (A) to provide additional
7 information if the Secretary determines such information is necessary to process the
8 application.

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

13 SECTION 5. *Matching Requirement.* – An eligible institution of higher education that
14 receives a grant under this Act shall contribute to the conduct of the pregnant and parenting
15 student services office supported by the grant an amount from non-government funds equal to
16 the amount of the grant. The non-government share may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated,
17 including services, facilities, supplies, or equipment.

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

22 A. Hosts an initial pregnancy and parenting resource forum—

- 23 1. to assess pregnancy and parenting resources, located on the campus or within
24 the local community, that are available to meet the needs described in
25 Paragraph (B); and
26 2. to set goals for-

- 1 a.improving such resources for pregnant, parenting, and prospective
2 parenting students; and
- 3 b. improving access to such resources.
- 4 B. Annually assesses the performance of the eligible institution and the office in meeting
5 the following needs of students enrolled in the eligible institution who are pregnant or
6 are parents:
- 7 1. The inclusion of maternity coverage and the availability of riders for
8 additional family members in student health care.
- 9 2. Family housing.
- 10 3. Child care.
- 11 4. Flexible or alternative academic scheduling, such as telecommuting programs.
- 12 5. Education to improve parenting skills for mothers and fathers.
- 13 6. Resources to assist parents and prospective parents in meeting the material
14 needs of their children.
- 15 7. Post-partum counseling and support groups.
- 16 C. Identifies public and private service providers, located on the campus of the eligible
17 institution or within the local community, that are qualified to meet the needs
18 described in Paragraph (B), and establishes programs with qualified providers to meet
19 such needs.
- 20 D. Assists pregnant and parenting students and their spouses in locating and obtaining
21 services that meet the needs described in Paragraph (B).
- 22 E. If appropriate, provides referrals for prenatal care and delivery, infant or foster care,
23 or adoption, to a student who requests such information. An office shall make such
24 referrals only to service providers that primarily serve the following types of
25 individuals:
- 26 1. Parents.
- 27 2. Prospective parents awaiting adoption.
- 28 3. Women who are pregnant and plan on parenting or placing the child for
29 adoption.

- 1 4. Parenting or prospective parenting couples who are married or who plan on
2 marrying in order to provide a supportive environment for each other and their
3 child.

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

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

- 11 A. itemizes the pregnant and parenting student services office's expenditures for the
12 fiscal year;
13 B. contains a review and evaluation of the performance of the office in fulfilling the
14 requirements of this Act, using the specific performance criteria or standards
15 established under Section 7 Paragraph (A); and
16 C. describes the achievement of the office in meeting the needs listed in Section 6
17 Paragraph (B) of the students served by the eligible institution, and the frequency of
18 use of the office by such students.

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

- 21 A. shall identify the specific performance criteria or standards that shall be used to
22 prepare the report; and
23 B. shall establish the form or format of the report.

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

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

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

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

14 SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
15 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
16 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

19 Approved,

/apm100708