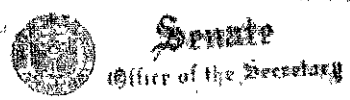


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session



13 JUL -3 112 51

SENATE

S.B. No. 356

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish literacy programs for all expectant mothers in all public and private hospitals, clinics, health centers and other similar establishments rendering maternity services to equip them with basic knowledge and skills that will foster effective parenting.

An expectant mother's knowledge about childbirth and skills on parenting has historically been obtained from other women, mainly from family members and through practical experience gained from caring for children from extended families.

However, women's increased participation in the workforce and attainment of higher education, coupled with the increasing number of childbirths in at hospitals and maternity clinics, have made more expectant mothers likely to rely on formally-organized antenatal education as a means by which they develop their knowledge and skills on parenting.

This bill aims to address the evolving needs of expectant mothers by requiring all public and private hospitals, clinic, health centers and other similar establishments rendering maternity services to formulate and implement literacy programs that will provide expectant mothers skills they can use in responsible parenting and to empower them to make educated choices in so far as raising their child.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

*[Signature]*  
LOREN LEGARDA  
Senator




Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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

'13 JUL -3 P12 51

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B.No. 356

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT  
REQUIRING ALL HOSPITALS, CLINICS, HEALTH CENTERS AND OTHER  
SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS RENDERING MATERNITY SERVICES TO  
ESTABLISH LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Literacy for Parenting Act of  
2 2013."

3  
4           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It shall be the policy of the State to promote the  
5 provision of formal and informal venues for postnatal literacy in the community level in  
6 order to assist parents in the preparation for their vital role in the molding of the future  
7 generations of intelligent, morally upright, healthy, psychologically stable and civic-  
8 minded Filipinos.

9  
10           **SEC. 3. Coverage.** - All public and private hospitals, clinic, health centers and  
11 other similar establishment rendering maternity services shall provide literacy  
12 programs to all expectant mothers within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.  
13 For this purpose, the literacy programs shall focus on providing expectant parents with  
14 skills they can use to foster responsible parenting and empower them to make informed  
15 and educated choices with regard to the health and well-being of their child.

16  
17           **SEC. 4. Lead Agency.** - The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with  
18 the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of  
19 Education (DepEd), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
20 implementation of this Act, such roles shall include the penalty of cancellation of license

1 to operate plus payment of fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos  
2 (P100,000.00) in case of an institution's non-compliance with the establishment of a  
3 literacy program.

4

5 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** - The amount needed for the implementation of this Act  
6 shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Health under the current  
7 General Appropriations Act thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued  
8 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

9

10 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
11 presidential proclamation, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or  
12 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13

14 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared  
15 unconstitutional, the same shall not effect the validity and effectivity of the other  
16 provisions hereof.

17

18 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
19 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

20

21 Approved,