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OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
S. No. **1953**

RECEIVED BY: *jsi*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent scientific reports by the United States Institute of Medicine, the American Medical Association and the Office on National AIDS Policy stress the need for sexuality education that includes messages about abstinence and provides young people with information about contraception for the prevention of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases or "STDs".

Research shows that teenagers who receive sexuality education that includes discussion of contraception are more likely than those who receive abstinence-only messages to delay sexual activity and to use contraceptives when they do become sexually active.

Comprehensive sexuality education programs respect the diversity of values and beliefs represented in the community and will complement and augment the sexuality education children receive from their families.

Filipino teens need access to full, complete, and medically and factually accurate information regarding sexuality, including contraception, STD/HIV prevention, and abstinence.\*

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*ms*

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

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1 AN ACT  
2 PROVIDING FOR FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* -- This Act may be cited as the "Family Life Education Act."

4 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* -- For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall  
5 mean:

6 (A) "Eligible city or municipality" means a city or municipality that submits to the  
7 Secretary of Health an application for a grant under section 3 that is in such form, is made in  
8 such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the Secretary  
9 determines to be necessary to carry out this Act.

10 (B) "HIV / AIDS" means the human immunodeficiency virus, and includes Acquired  
11 Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

12 (C) "Medically accurate," with respect to information, means information that is  
13 supported by research, recognized as accurate and objective by leading medical, psychological,  
14 psychiatric, and public health organizations and agencies, and where relevant, published in peer  
15 review journals.

16 (D) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.

17 SECTION 3. *Assistance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other Sexually*  
18 *Transmitted Diseases, and to Support Healthy Adolescent Development.* --

19 (A) *In General.* -- Each eligible municipality or city shall be entitled to receive from  
20 the Secretary of Health, for each of the five (5) fiscal years following the passage of this Act, a

1 grant to conduct programs of family life education, including education on both abstinence and  
2 contraception for the prevention of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases,  
3 including HIV/AIDS.

4 (B) *Requirements for Family Life Programs.* -- For purposes of this Act, a program of  
5 family life education is a program that--

- 6 (1) Is age-appropriate and medically accurate;
- 7 (2) Does not teach or promote religion;
- 8 (3) Teaches that abstinence is the only sure way to avoid pregnancy or  
9 sexually transmitted diseases;
- 10 (4) Stresses the value of abstinence while not ignoring those young people  
11 who have had or are having sexual intercourse;
- 12 (5) Provides information about the health benefits and side effects of all  
13 contraceptives and barrier methods as a means to prevent pregnancy;
- 14 (6) Provides information about the health benefits and side effects of all  
15 contraceptives and barrier methods as a means to reduce the risk of  
16 contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;
- 17 (7) Encourages family communication about sexuality between parent and  
18 child;
- 19 (8) Teaches young people the skills to make responsible decisions about  
20 sexuality, including how to avoid unwanted verbal, physical, and sexual  
21 advances and how not to make unwanted verbal, physical, and sexual  
22 advances; and
- 23 (9) Teaches young people how alcohol and drug use can affect responsible  
24 decision making.

25 (C) *Additional Activities.* -- In carrying out a program of family life education, a city  
26 or municipality may expend a grant under paragraph (A) to carry out educational and  
27 motivational activities that help young people--

- 28 (1) Gain knowledge about the physical, emotional, biological, and hormonal  
29 changes of adolescence and subsequent stages of human maturation;

- 1 (2) Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure and protect their  
2 sexual and reproductive health from unintended pregnancy and sexually  
3 transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS throughout their lifespan;
- 4 (3) Gain knowledge about the specific involvement of and male responsibility  
5 in sexual decision making;
- 6 (4) Develop healthy attitudes and values about adolescent growth and  
7 development, body image, gender roles, racial and ethnic diversity, sexual  
8 orientation, and other subjects;
- 9 (5) Develop and practice healthy life skills including goal-setting, decision  
10 making, negotiation, communication, and stress management;
- 11 (6) Promote self-esteem and positive interpersonal skills focusing on  
12 relationship dynamics, including, but not limited to, friendships, dating,  
13 romantic involvement, marriage and family interactions; and
- 14 (7) Prepare for the adult world by focusing on educational and career success,  
15 including developing skills for employment preparation, job seeking,  
16 independent living, financial self-sufficiency, and workplace productivity.

17 SECTION 4. *Evaluation of Programs.* --

18 (A) *In General.* -- For the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of programs of  
19 family life education carried out with a grant under Section 3, evaluations of such program shall  
20 be carried out in accordance with paragraphs (B) and (C).

21 (B) *National Evaluation.* --

- 22 (1) *In General.* -- The Secretary shall provide for a national evaluation of a  
23 representative sample of programs of family life education carried out  
24 with grants under section 3. A condition for the receipt of such a grant is  
25 that the city or municipality involved agrees to cooperate with the  
26 evaluation. The purposes of the national evaluation shall be the  
27 determination of--

- 1 (a) The effectiveness of such programs in helping to delay the  
2 initiation of sexual intercourse and other high-risk behaviors;
- 3 (b) The effectiveness of such programs in preventing adolescent  
4 pregnancy;
- 5 (c) The effectiveness of such programs in preventing sexually  
6 transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS;
- 7 (d) The effectiveness of such programs in increasing contraceptive  
8 knowledge and contraceptive behaviors when sexual intercourse  
9 occurs; and
- 10 (e) A list of best practices based upon essential programmatic  
11 components of evaluated programs that have led to success in  
12 subparagraphs (a) through (d).

13 (2) *Report.* -- A report providing the results of the national evaluation under  
14 paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Congress not later than March 31  
15 of the following the first year of the implementation of this law, with an  
16 interim report provided on a yearly basis at the end of each fiscal year.

17 (C) *Individual City/ Municipality Evaluations.* --

18 (1) *In General.* -- A condition for the receipt of a grant under Section 3 is that  
19 the city or municipality involved agrees to provide for the evaluation of  
20 the programs of family education carried out with the grant in accordance  
21 with the following:

- 22 (a) The evaluation will be conducted by an external, independent  
23 entity.
- 24 (b) The purposes of the evaluation will be the determination of--
- 25 (i) The effectiveness of such programs in helping to delay the  
26 initiation of sexual intercourse and other high-risk  
27 behaviors;
- 28 (ii) The effectiveness of such programs in preventing  
29 adolescent pregnancy;

1 (iii) The effectiveness of such programs in preventing sexually  
2 transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS; and

3 (iv) The effectiveness of such programs in increasing  
4 contraceptive knowledge and contraceptive behaviors when  
5 sexual intercourse occurs.

6 (2) *Use of Grant.* -- A condition for the receipt of a grant under section 3 is  
7 that the city or municipality involved agrees that not more than ten per  
8 cent (10%) of the grant will be expended for the evaluation under  
9 paragraph (1).

10 SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* -- To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may  
11 be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

12 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* -- If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or  
13 unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions shall remain valid and effective.

14 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* -- All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules, and  
15 regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
16 amended, or modified accordingly.

17 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* -- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its  
18 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,