

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

'14 JUL 24 P 4 :01

SENATE
S. No. 2324

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
TO KEEP OUR PUBLIC PLAYPENS SAFE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

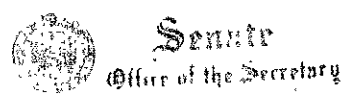
The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Playpens are common nowadays in establishments who cater to families. It can be seen in malls, restaurants, and commercial centers and serves to attract families with children. In these facilities, children get to play, along with other children, with minimal supervision from their guardians.

It is ironic that it is these playpens, which cater specifically to children, are the most seldom cleaned among the facilities in the establishments that operate them. Perhaps it is due to the level of difficulty in which they are cleaned that these playpens are likely to be neglected. The children who play in them have yet to understand the concept of hygiene and grasp the danger posed to them by sharing the playpens with sick children. It is precisely due to this reason that the children who use these facilities should be protected from diseases brought about by sick children.

This bill seeks to establish safety and cleanliness standards for public playpens.

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO



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

1 AN ACT
2 TO KEEP OUR PUBLIC PLAYPENS SAFE

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4 SECTION 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as “Safe Public
5 Playpens Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy*. – It shall be the policy of the state
7 to ensure that all facilities for public use are clean, safe and disease-free.

8 SECTION 3. *Definition*. – The term "playpen" includes any facility
9 offered to the public where children may play, whether free or for a fee;

10 SECTION 4. *Playpen Safety and Cleanliness Program*. – The
11 Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Department of
12 Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall establish a program that shall:

- 13 1. Provide for a regular inspection of all the playpens by local health
14 inspectors, which shall not be less frequent than once every year;
- 15 2. Formulate standards for safety and cleanliness for all playpens;
- 16 3. Establish a national information campaign, educating
17 entrepreneurs and playpen owners about methods of maintaining
18 the safety and cleanliness of the playpens.

19 SECTION 5. *Mandatory Inspection Requirement*. – No playpen shall
20 be open to the public unless it has been inspected for the period as provided
21 for in the program under Section 4 of this Act. Upon inspection, the local

1 public health officer shall issue a certification that the playpen is safe for
2 public use. Such certification shall expire no later than one year after the
3 same is issued.

4 SECTION 6. *Outbreak.* – Should the DOH declare an outbreak of a
5 communicable disease in a local government, all public playpens in the said
6 area shall be closed to the public. Upon declaration that the outbreak has
7 been lifted, the local inspectors shall inspect all the public playpens in the
8 area affected and shall issue a new certification to those who comply with
9 the standards.

10 SECTION 7. *Best Practices.* – The DOH, upon consultation with the
11 private sector, shall compile a manual of best practices in ensuring the safety
12 of public playpens. DOH shall establish a network of public playpen
13 operators and service providers for the cleanliness, maintenance, and safety
14 of public playpens.

15 SECTION 8. *Penalty.* – Any person, partnership or corporation who
16 operates a public playpen without a valid certification shall be fined a fee of
17 ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) for every month of operation. This
18 penalty shall be independent of other administrative, civil or criminal
19 liabilities arising from injuries sustained and/or diseases contracted from the
20 use of the public playpen.

21 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or
22 issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or
23 regulation contrary to or inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed,
24 modified, or amended accordingly.

25 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
26 (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general
27 circulation.

28 Adopted,

29 /apm07102014