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SENATE

S. No. 550

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE FAMILIES COMMISSION, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the primary strengths of the commission system is the involvement of citizens in making decisions and evaluating the results for their own communities. Local ownership of process often brings more efficiency of service and greater leverage of resources. Residents of each community are involved in developing the plans, selecting programs and initiatives to implement the plans, and evaluating the results of that work. Accordingly, the creation of Families Commission aims to provide for a progressive public and private leadership that shall work collaboratively to support and strengthen communities to improve the lives of Filipino families. Moreover, to actively speak out for Filipino families, the Commissioners and staff visit communities throughout the country to hear about their issues and promote the Commission's work. The Commission shall be committed to locally-driven, results oriented change through:

- Informed and effective public policy;
- Passionate voice and strong advocacy on behalf of families;
- Diverse communities to plan and develop shared action on children's issues; and
- Wise investment of resources with a preventative focus on healthy families.

Thus, the Families Commission Act, once enacted, shall undertake research, provide policy advice, consult the public and provide information to families and those who work with them. These activities aim to improve services, policies and support for all Filipino families. The Commission shall be responsible for nationwide planning, standards setting and policy development, and provide communities with research-based best practices on which to base local programs for families.

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


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE FAMILIES COMMISSION, PROVIDING FUNDS
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.**-This Act shall be known as the "Families Commission Act
2 of 2016".

3
4 **SEC. 2. Definition of Terms.** – In this Act unless the context otherwise requires, the
5 following definitions shall apply:

- 6
7 A. Board refers to the persons who are Commissioners and, in relation to the transaction
8 of business at a meeting, who number not less than the required quorum acting
9 together as a board;
10
11 B. Commission refers to the Families Commission established by this Act;
12
13 C. Member refers to a member of the Commission.
14

15 **SEC. 3. Commission established.** – This section establishes the Families
16 Commission.
17

18 **SEC. 4. Commission's main function.** – The Commission's main function is to act as
19 an advocate for the interests of families generally.
20

21 Said function does not include acting as an advocate for the interests of a particular
22 family or particular families in connection with a particular case or issue brought before any
23 court, tribunal or body.
24

25 In performing said function, the Commission shall identify and consider factors that
26 shall maintain or enhance either or both of the following:
27

- 28 A. Families' resilience; and
29
30 B. Families' strengths.
31

32 **SEC. 5. Commission's additional functions.** – In order to perform its main function
33 stated in Section 4, the Commission shall have the following additional functions:

- 1
2 A. Encourage and facilitate informed debate, by any of the following persons, on matters
3 relating to the interests of families:
4
5 1. Representatives of government, academe, and community sectors; and
6
7 2. Members of the public.
8
9 B. Increase public awareness and promote better understanding of matters relating to the
10 interests of families, such as but not limited to the following:
11
12 1. The importance of stable family relationships (including those between parties
13 to a marriage or a de facto relationship);
14
15 2. The importance of the parenting role; and
16
17 3. The rights and responsibilities of parents.
18
19 C. Encourage and facilitate the development and provision, by departments of the
20 Government, of policies designed to promote or serve the interests of families;
21
22 D. Stimulate and promote research into any matter relating to the interests of families,
23 such as:
24
25 1. Collecting and disseminating information or research about families;
26
27 2. Advising on areas where further research or information about families should
28 be undertaken or collected; and
29
30 3. Entering into contracts or arrangements for research or information about
31 families to be undertaken or collected.
32
33 E. Consult with, or refer a matter to, any one (1) or more other agencies, if the
34 Commission considers it necessary or desirable to do so, for the proper performance
35 of any or all of its other functions; and
36
37 F. Carry out any functions that are incidental and related to the performance of its main
38 function stated in Section 4 or to the performance of any of its additional functions
39 stated in this section.
40

41 **SEC. 6. Diversity of Filipino families.** – In the exercise and performance of its
42 powers and functions; the Commission shall consider the kinds, structures, and diversity of
43 families.
44

45 In this section, family includes a group of people related by marriage, blood, or
46 adoption, an extended family, two (2) or more persons living together as a family, or other
47 culturally recognized family group. However, persons are not members of a family for the
48 purposes of this section solely because they have as their common objective or one (1) of
49 their common objectives is the achievement of some profit, result or any other outcome of a

1 community, domestic, professional, recreational, social, vocational, or otherwise unlawful
2 nature.

3
4 **SEC. 7. Needs, values, and beliefs of particular groups.** – In the exercise and
5 performance of its powers and functions, the Commission shall have regard of the needs,
6 values, and beliefs (a) of the Filipino people; and (b) of ethnic and cultural groups in the
7 Philippines.

8
9 **SEC. 8. Mechanisms for obtaining views of specified groups.-** In the exercise and
10 performance of its powers and functions, the Commission shall maintain mechanisms, such
11 as but not limited to appointing advisory committees or forming consultation forums, to
12 ensure that there are at all times readily accessible to it the views-

13
14 A. Of the Filipino people;

15
16 B. Of ethnic and cultural groups in the Philippines; and

17
18 C. Of groups that represent families, or one (1) or more kinds of family members, and of
19 groups that have a particular interest in families or in any one (1) or more matters
20 related to the Commission's functions.

21
22 Examples of groups referred to in subsection (I) (C) of this Section are groups that
23 represent the interests of any of the following:

24
25 A. Spouses and de facto partners;

26
27 B. Parents, fathers, and mothers;

28
29 C. Children under the age of 18 years;

30
31 D. Grandparents and the elderly;

32
33 E. Caregivers;

34
35 F. Men and women;

36
37 G. Providers of social services;

38
39 H. The academe and researchers interested in matters relating to families; or

40
41 I. Employers and workers.

42
43 **SEC. 9. Capacity and powers.-** Except as provided in this Act or any other Act or
44 rule of law, the Commission shall exercise all the powers, rights and privileges authorized by
45 law, whether expressed or implied, and those incident to its existence. The Commission shall
46 exercise said powers only for the purpose of performing its functions.

47
48 **SEC. 10. Membership of Commission.-** The Commission shall consist of at least
49 three (3) but not more than seven (7) Commissioners. A Chief Commissioner shall be
50 appointed, while a Deputy Chief Commissioner may be appointed.

1
2 **SEC. 11. Board's role.-** The board is the Commission's governing body, and all
3 powers, rights and privileges conferred upon the Commission shall be exercised by it. All
4 decisions relating to the operation of the Commission must be made by or under the authority
5 of the Board in accordance with this Act. All Commissioners shall be members of the Board
6 and shall be headed by the Chief Commissioner prescribed in Section 10 of this Act.
7

8 **SEC. 12. Ability to delegate.** - The Board may delegate any of the powers or
9 functions of the Commission or of the Board, either generally or specifically, to any of the
10 following persons by resolution and written notice to the person or persons thereof:
11

12 A. Any of its members;

13
14 B. A committee appointed by resolution of the board that includes at least one (1)
15 member of the board; and
16

17 C. Any employee or employees of the Commission;
18

19 **SEC. 13. Board may appoint committees.-** The board may, by resolution, appoint
20 one (1) or more committees to:
21

22 A. Inquire into and report to the board on any matters within the scope of the
23 Commission's or the Board's powers or functions that are referred to the committee by
24 the Board;
25

26 B. Exercise or perform any of the Commission's or the Board's powers or functions that
27 are delegated to the committee; and
28

29 C. In all cases, the committee is subject to the control of the Board and may, at any time,
30 be discharged, altered, or reconstituted by the Board.
31

32 **SEC. 14. Membership of Committee.** - A committee must consist of at least one (1)
33 member and may include any other persons that the Board thinks fit.
34

35 **SEC. 15. Funding.-** The sum necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be
36 appropriated in the general annual appropriations.
37

38 **SEC. 16. Repealing Clause.-** Any laws, decrees, ordinances or rules and regulations
39 which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or
40 repealed.
41

42 **SEC. 17. Effectivity.-** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
43 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,