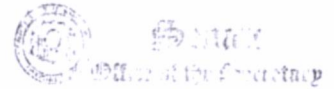


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
S.B. NO. 2051

'18 OCT -3 P4:13

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

REC

AN ACT
PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING BREASTFEEDING AS AN ESSENTIAL
COMPONENT OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

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

Article XV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

“The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development.”

Early and exclusive breastfeeding of infants has the greatest potential impact on child survival. According to UNICEF breastfed children have six times greater chances of survival in the early months than non-breastfed children.

Breast milk provides all the nutrients, vitamins and minerals an infant needs. It also carries antibodies from the mother that help fight several diseases like acute respiratory infection and diarrhea which are two major fatal illnesses among infants.

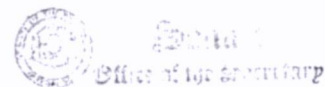
The proposed bill seeks to promote awareness on breastfeeding by mandating that couples applying for a marriage license receive instructions and information on breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

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



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

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RECEIVED

AN ACT
PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING BREASTFEEDING AS AN ESSENTIAL
COMPONENT OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Family Support
2 for Breastfeeding Act.”

3
4 Sec. 3. *Declaration of Principles and State Policies.* – The State shall
5 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health
6 consciousness among them. The State likewise recognizes the sanctity of family
7 as a basic autonomous social institution.

8 The State upholds that preparation for responsible parenthood should
9 start even prior to the celebration of marriage so as to allow prospective
10 husband and wife ample time to consider their options and priorities. Towards
11 this end, a comprehensive and effective responsible parenthood program should
12 also include promotion of breastfeeding and proper infant nutrition as an
13 inherent component of each child’s right to enjoy, and each parent’s
14 responsibility to provide, the highest attainable standard of health.

15
16 Sec. 3. *Mandate.* – The Office of Family Planning in every city and
17 municipality is hereby mandated to give instructions and information not only

1 pertaining to family planning and responsible parenthood but also to
2 breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

3 The city or municipal health officer shall continue to be assisted by the
4 city or rural health nurse, members of the city or rural health unit, and such
5 other personnel from different agencies of the government involved in efforts
6 towards promotion of responsible parenthood.

7
8 *Sec. 4. Certificate of Compliance.* – Pursuant to Section 3 of Presidential
9 Decree 22 No. 965, no marriage license shall be issued by the Local Civil Registry
10 unless the applicants present a certificate of compliance issued by a family
11 planning officer certifying that they have duly received comprehensive
12 instructions and information on family planning, responsible parenthood,
13 breastfeeding, and infant nutrition.

14 The instructions and information shall be given, and the certificate of
15 compliance shall be issued, free of charge.

16
17 *Sec. 5. Assistance of Government Agencies.* – Agencies of the government
18 shall assist the Family Planning Officer in order to further promote and support
19 family planning and responsible parenthood. Towards this end, the Department
20 of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the
21 Population Commission shall furnish each Family Planning Office with the proper
22 information and resources on current studies and research related to family
23 planning, responsible parenthood, breastfeeding, and infant nutrition.

24
25 *Sec. 6. Assistance from the Private Sector.* – The Family Planning Office
26 may request volunteer doctors, nurses, or duly-licensed health professionals or
27 health care workers to assist in giving the instructions and information mandated
28 by this Act. Provided, that in no event shall anyone promote, endorse, market, or
29 do any act tending to promote or endorse any commercially-produced and/or
30 commercially-sold product or any paid medical, health, or wellness service.

1

2 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
3 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
4 provisions hereof.

5

6 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
7 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are
8 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

9

10 *Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
11 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
12 circulation

Approved,