

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

SENATE

S. No. 680

Senate
Office of the Secretary

2019-11-22 P2:22

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.



**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH HOME VISITATION
PROGRAM**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

A healthy populace starts from the very inception of life; hence the health of the mother and the infant is essential. The 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) generally reported an improvement in the status of maternal and infant health: infant mortality decreased, under-5 mortality has declined, neonatal mortality declined, high percentage of women are receiving antenatal care, and women who give birth in health facilities increased.

According to the said survey, however, "More than half of women age 15-49 have at least one problem accessing health care for themselves. Getting money for treatment is the most common problem (45%). Younger women age 15-19 (64%), women with no education (76%), and women from the poorest households (72%) are more likely than the other women to report problems in accessing health care for themselves."

This measure provides for the "Expanded Maternal and Infant Care Act." Taking into consideration the aforementioned facts, it seeks to establish maternal and infant health home visitation program that will cater to the needs of young mothers and poor families. Among the services that they will provide are instruction and counselling on prenatal care, childbirth and motherhood; nutrition and general family counselling; and physical examination both for the mother and the infant.

This measure was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives and was transmitted to this Chamber where it was sent to the Archives due to the adjournment of the 17th Congress.

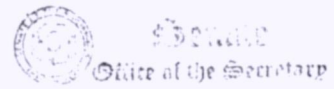
The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Expanded Maternal*
2 *and Infant Care Act*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is a policy of the State to equally protect the
4 life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. In line with this policy,
5 the State shall, in addition to maternity care services provided in health facilities,
6 administer prenatal and postnatal maternity and infant care services under a home
7 visitation program in order to protect the health and well-being of mother and infants.

8 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the term "poor" shall refer
9 to income brackets that fall below the poverty threshold defined by the Philippine
10 Statistics Authority (PSA) based on the most recent Family Income and Expenditure
11 Survey (FIES).

12 Sec. 4. *Establishment of Maternal and Infant Health Home Visitation Program.*
13 - The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) shall require health centers to
14 designate an appropriate health professional or a qualified nonprofessional acting
15 under the supervision of a health care professional who shall render maternal and
16 infant care services in the home of eligible individuals.

17 Sec. 5. *Eligibility to Avail of Home Visitation Services.* - A pregnant woman not
18 more than twenty-one (21) years old, or families with an infant of up to the age of

1 one (1) year, belonging to the low-income brackets below the poverty threshold shall
2 be eligible to receive the maternal and infant care services provided under this Act.

3 Sec. 6. *Maternal and Infant Health Services.* – The maternal and infant care
4 services that shall be provided in the home of eligible individuals shall include the
5 following:

6 (a) Instruction and counselling concerning all aspects of prenatal care,
7 childbirth, and motherhood;

8 (b) Nutrition counselling;

9 (c) General family counselling, including child and family development; and,

10 (d) Physical examination or referral for further medical care for a mother
11 and/or infant.

12 Sec. 7. *Prohibition on Abortion.* – Any maternal and infant care service which
13 shall be made available under this Act shall not be construed to advocate, promote,
14 or encourage abortion.

15 Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
17 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

18 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
19 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
20 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
21 accordingly.

22 Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

24
25 *Approved,*