

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Second Regular Session



24 MAY -6 P3:26

SENATE
S. B. No. 2658

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
PROMOTING MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE BY PROVIDING FREE
MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO INDIGENT WOMEN AND TO GIRLS ENROLLED
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Empowering women is crucial to the health and social development of families in the country as they play a vital role in nation building being the giver of life or the ones who bear children in their womb. With a population of close to 120 million people in our country, including more than 34 million adolescent girls and women of reproductive age, it is only proper that the State ensures their rights are protected through the provision of adequate support in their needs, specifically in access to health care.

One pivotal stage of womanhood is menstruation as it is crucial in the creation of life and human development. However, civil society organization Humanist Alliance Philippines (HAPI) found in their survey last 2023 that 74 percent of women between the ages of 14 and 30 have missed work or school because they did not have access to feminine hygiene products or "felt too embarrassed to leave the house due to the lack of products."

Therefore, it is only proper to address *Period Poverty* or the limited access to or affordability of menstrual health and hygiene services and products that poses serious health risks, particularly reproductive and urinary tract infections among other complications. The prevalence of these illnesses can be prevented through the promotion of menstrual hygiene.

Hence, this measure seeks to provide free menstrual health and hygiene products to indigent women nationwide and to girls enrolled in public schools to

resolve the issue on the lack of access to sanitary items needed by Filipinas. Moreover, the bill also mandates the promotion and use of Philippine-made menstrual hygiene and health products to foster the domestic industry on sanitary goods.

As these items are considered as a necessity for women, this measure will improve the country's human development and its local industries as well as implement the State's policy on achieving gender equality, social dignity, and sustainable development.

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



SONNY ANGARA

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Free Menstrual Products
2 Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and
4 promote the right to health of all Filipinos, regardless of their sex and gender, and
5 instill health consciousness among them, to provide equal access to education and
6 work. It is also the policy of the State to promote gender equality by ensuring girls
7 and women have access to proper menstrual health and hygiene.

8 **SEC. 3. Distribution of Free Menstrual Products in Public Schools.** – The
9 Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Education
10 (DepEd), shall provide free menstrual products to female students enrolled in all public
11 primary and secondary schools nationwide.

12 **SEC. 4. Distribution of Free Menstrual Products in Public Health**
13 **Centers.** – The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and
14 Development (DSWD) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shall distribute menstrual
15 products to indigent women, as identified and verified by the DSWD or by the local
16 social welfare and development officer of the LGU, through its Barangay Health
17 Centers nationwide.

1 **SEC. 5. *Promotion of Locally-Made Menstrual Hygiene Products.*** – In
2 coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Tatak Pinoy
3 Council, the DOH shall ensure that locally-made menstrual hygiene products are
4 included in the distribution of free menstrual hygiene products depending on
5 availability and in accordance with the provisions of relevant procurement laws.

6 Guidelines shall be formulated by the DTI and the Tatak Pinoy Council to
7 promote and to develop the domestic menstrual hygiene product industry in line with
8 Republic Act No. 11981.

9 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DOH, in consultation
10 and coordination with the DepEd, the DSWD, the DTI shall promulgate the
11 Implementing Rules and Regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of
12 this Act.

13 **SEC. 7. *Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this
14 Act shall be included in the budget of the DOH under the General Appropriations Act
15 (GAA).

16 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is
17 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected
18 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

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

Approved,