

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

7 JUL -2 1978

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 316

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The family is widely known as the basic unit of the society. Everything learned and experienced inside one's home is manifested in the way a person acts and deals with others. Hence, it is essential to build strong family foundations.

Article XV, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Philippines expresses that, "The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development."

Several government institutions and a number of private organizations undertake programs that are dedicated to assisting Filipino families in their problems as well as in other area such as family planning and outreach programs. Nevertheless, most of them, if not all, are directed to assisting mainly the socially-disadvantage families.

It is an undeniable fact that such kind of families are in need of immediate support more than those who are well-off. But a holistic approach to our search for long-term solution to the problems plaguing our society will include the families from all and different economic and social standing.

This bill proposed the creation of a Commission on the Family that will cater to the needs and demands of every Filipino family. The Commission shall undertake further studies, review and evaluation of the various issues and problems that currently confront this sector. Such will be an effective instrument in strengthening the solidarity and harmonious relationship of all members of the family.

The Filipinos are family-oriented people and the enactment of this bill will further nurture the qualities inherent to them. For the reasons given, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
TO INSTITUTE THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE FAMILY AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "National Family Commission of the Philippines of 2007".

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy. The family is the basic social unit of Philippine Society, as such, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to institute all programs geared towards the preservation and strengthening of the family as an institution.

SEC 3. Creation of the National Family Commission. There is hereby created a National Family Commission that shall serve as the primary policy formulation and data collation agency of the country geared towards the fulfillment of the constitutional mandate to strengthen and protect the family as a basic social unit of Philippine Society and attached to the Office of the President.

SEC 4. National Family Commission Officers. The Commission shall be headed by a Chairperson and assisted by two Associate Commissioners who shall all be members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for at least 10 years in active practice. They shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a one-time term of 6 years with no re-appointment.

SEC 5. Executive Council. There is hereby created an Executive Council composed of the following:

1. The Chairperson of the Commission as Chairman;
2. The Secretary of the Department of Justice as member;
3. The Secretary of the Department of Education as member;
4. The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare as member;
5. The Secretary of the Department of Labor as member;
6. The Secretary of the Department of Health;
7. The Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;
8. The Director General of the NEDA; and
9. A representative from the National Statistics Office;

The Executive Council shall be the policy-making body of the Commission.

SEC 6. Powers of the Commission. The Commission shall have the following powers:

1. Establish a national database on information on family matters, problems and implemented solutions particularly those from other jurisdictions;
2. Formulate policies on the development of family ties and the resolution of common family problems;
3. Formulation of programs that would develop the interrelationship of family members with each other and with other members of the community;
4. Institute a nationwide family program with emphasis on how to face the challenges of the modern millennium; and
5. Institute other programs that they may be determined by the Executive Board.

SEC 7. Secretariat. There is hereby created a secretariat to assist the Commissioners in the discharge of their functions. The secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director who should also be a member of the Philippine Bar and assisted by other personnel to be determined by the Executive Council.

SEC 8. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC 9. Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Act were to be declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC 10. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen days from the date of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulations.

Approved,