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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 879

BY REPRESENTATIVES BONDOC, PINGOY, UY (R.S.), UY (R.A.), YU, JAAFAR,
SYJUCO, PIAMONTE, SALIMBANGON, ARENAS, NICOLAS, RODRIGUEZ,
VIOLAGO AND ALMARIO

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS
“NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH”

*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 “National
2 Breastfeeding Awareness Month Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to
4 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health
5 consciousness among them. The State shall adopt an integrated and
6 comprehensive approach to health development and shall defend the right of
7 children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition and declare the
8 month of August of every year as “National Breastfeeding Awareness Month”.

9 SEC. 3. *Public Education and Awareness Program.* – To ensure the
10 meaningful observance of the month as herein declared, a comprehensive
11 public education and awareness program shall be undertaken by the
12 Department of Health as follows:

1 (a) To protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the Philippines as
2 the normal, natural and preferred method of feeding infants and young
3 children;

4 (b) To guarantee the rightful place of breastfeeding in society as a time-
5 honored tradition and nurturing value as well as a national health policy that
6 must be enforced;

7 (c) To provide information about the benefits and superiority of
8 breastfeeding and the high risks and costs of bottle-feeding;

9 (d) To generate awareness on, and full enforcement of, national and
10 international laws, codes, policies and programs on the promotion and
11 protection of safe and adequate nutrition for infants and young children by
12 promoting and protecting breastfeeding and by regulating the marketing of
13 certain foods and feeding bottles, teats and pacifiers; and

14 (e) To instill recognition and support and ensure access to
15 comprehensive, current and culturally appropriate lactation care and services
16 for all women, children and families, including support for breastfeeding
17 mothers in the work force.

18 SEC. 4. *Inter-Agency and Multi-Sectoral Effort.* – The Department of
19 Health shall lead in the implementation of the comprehensive national public
20 education and awareness program on breastfeeding through a collaborative
21 inter-agency and multi-sectoral effort at all levels. It shall particularly ensure
22 widespread and expeditious public information about the benefits and
23 superiority of breastfeeding against the high risks and costs of bottle-feeding.

24 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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