



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4226

BY REPRESENTATIVES BONDOC, PINGOY, UY (R.S.), UY (R.A.) YU, JAAFAR,
SYJUCO, PIAMONTE, SALIMBANGON, ARENAS, NICOLAS, RODRIGUEZ,
VIOLAGO AND ALMARIO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 592

AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING AS AN
ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF FAMILY PLANNING AND
RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*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
2 Support for Breastfeeding Act of 2008”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principles and State Policies.* – The State shall
4 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health
5 consciousness among them. The State likewise recognizes the sanctity of
6 family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous
7 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

1 should also include promotion of breastfeeding and proper infant nutrition as
2 an inherent component of each child's right to enjoy, and each parent's
3 responsibility to provide, the highest attainable standard of health.

4 Current government efforts and programs aimed towards promoting
5 breastfeeding as an optimal and cost-effective means of infant and young child
6 nutrition should be formally incorporated into the family planning and
7 responsible parenthood promotion and information dissemination mechanism
8 set forth in Presidential Decree No. 965.

9 SEC. 3. *Mandate.* -- The Office of Family Planning in every city and
10 municipality is hereby mandated to give instructions and information not only
11 pertaining to family planning and responsible parenthood but to extend the
12 same to cover proper topics relative to breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

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

17 SEC. 4. *Certificate of Compliance.* -- Pursuant to Section 3 of
18 Presidential Decree No. 965, no marriage license shall be issued by the Local
19 Civil Registrar unless the applicants present a Certificate of Compliance issued
20 by the Family Planning Office certifying that they had duly received
21 comprehensive instructions and information on family planning, responsible
22 parenthood, breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

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

25 SEC. 5. *Assistance of Government Agencies.* -- Agencies of the
26 government shall assist the Family Planning Offices in order to further promote
27 and support family planning and responsible parenthood. Towards this end,
28 the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development
29 and the Population Commission shall furnish each Family Planning Office with

1 the proper information and resources on current studies and research related to
2 family planning, responsible parenthood, breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

3 SEC. 6. *Assistance from the Private Sector.* – The Family Planning
4 Office may request volunteer doctors, nurses or other duly-licensed health
5 professionals or health care workers to assist in giving the instructions and
6 information mandated by this Act: *Provided*, That in no event shall anyone
7 promote, endorse, market or do any act tending to promote or endorse any
8 commercially-produced and/or commercially-sold product or any paid medical,
9 health or wellness service.

10 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – The provisions of this Act are hereby
11 deemed distinct and separable from each other. If any provision hereof be
12 declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall
13 not affect the other provisions which shall remain in full force and effect.

14 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Sections 2 and 3 of Presidential Decree
15 No. 965 are hereby amended accordingly. All laws, orders, issuances, rules
16 and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby deemed
17 repealed or modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect ninety (90) days
19 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,