

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

OFFICE

NO. 1

10 JUL 13 1920

SENATE

S.B. No. 1389

RECEIVED

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish literacy programs for all expectant mothers in all public and private hospitals, clinics, health centers and other similar establishments rendering maternity services to equip them with basic knowledge and skills that will foster effective parenting.

An expectant mother's knowledge about child birth and skills on parenting has historically been obtained from other women, mainly from family members and through practical experience gained from caring for children from extended families.

However, womens' increased participation in the workforce and attainment of higher education, coupled with the increasing number of childbirths in at hospitals and maternity clinics, have made more expectant mothers likely to rely on formally-organized antenatal education as a means by which they develop their knowledge and skills on parenting.

This bill aims to address the evolving needs of expectant mothers by requiring all public and private hospitals, clinic, health centers and other similar establishments rendering maternity services to formulate and implement literacy programs that will provide expectant mothers skills they can use in responsible parenting and to empower them to make educated choices in so far as raising their child.

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

**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator

10 JUL 13 PM 00

SENATE

S.B.No. 1389

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*[Signature]*

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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AN ACT  
REQUIRING ALL HOSPITALS, CLINICS, HEALTH CENTERS AND OTHER  
SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS RENDERING MATERNITY SERVICES TO  
ESTABLISH LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It shall be the policy of the State to promote the provision of formal and informal venues for postnatal literacy in the community level in order to assist parents in the preparation for their vital role in the molding of the future generations of intelligent, morally upright, healthy, psychologically stable and civic-minded Filipinos.

**SECTION 2. Coverage.** - All public and private hospitals, clinic, health centers and other similar establishment rendering maternity services shall provide literacy programs to all expectant mothers within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. For this purpose, the literacy programs shall focus on providing expectant parents with skills they can use to foster responsible parenting and empower them to make informed and educated choices with regard to the health and well-being of their child.

**SECTION 3. Lead Agency.** - The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Education (DepEd), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, which shall include the penalty of cancellation of license to operate plus payment of fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) in case of non-compliance with the establishment of a literacy program in their institution.

**SECTION 4. Appropriations.** - The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 5. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamation, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 6. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not effect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

**SECTION 7. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,