

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7084**



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The United Nations Population Fund underlines the critical role of midwives in the reduction of child mortality and delivery of quality maternal healthcare in the country. "Midwives are key healthcare facilitators in helping to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 (reducing child mortality), 5 (improving maternal health) and 6 (combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases)."¹

Cognizant of the above magnitude of their task, this measure seeks to strengthen and expand the scope of the midwifery profession by amending the 20-year old Philippine Midwifery Act of 1992, with the end in view of reducing maternal and prenatal morbidity and mortality.

This measure seeks to put forward the following amendments:

- grant additional powers as well as enhance the general welfare and commitment to service and professionalism of midwives;
- allow midwives to administer life-saving drugs when no physician is available, provided that they are appropriately trained for such purpose;
- require midwives to be certified proficient to perform the necessary care and services to prevent maternal deaths and allow them to administer essential newborn care;
- require practicing midwives who intend to perform Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) to apply for and acquire accreditation from the Department of Health (DoH);
- require registered midwives to maintain competence by continual learning through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to be provided by the accredited professional organization or any recognized professional midwifery organization;
- provide for a mandated comprehensive midwifery program which includes a valid assessment of career performance and potential of midwives; and
- provide for the minimum base pay of midwives in public health institutions which shall not be lower than the 1st step of the hiring rate prescribed for the positions under E.O. No. 201.

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


GARY C. ALEJANO
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

¹ 'Skilled Midwives Essential For Safer Maternal, Newborn And Reproductive Health,' Says FIGO. Information retrieved from <http://www.figo.org/news/%E2%80%09098skilled-midwives-essential-safer-maternal-newborn-and-reproductive-health%E2%80%99-6/23/2013>.

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7392, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"PHILIPPINE MIDWIFERY ACT OF 1992" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article III. Section 23 of Republic Act No. 7392 is hereby amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **"SEC 23. Practice of Midwifery Defined.** - The practice of midwifery
4 consist in performing or rendering or ordering to perform or render, for a fee,
5 salary, or other reward or compensation, services requiring an understanding of
6 the principles and application of procedures and techniques in the supervision and
7 care of women during pregnancy, labor and puerperium management of normal
8 deliveries, including the performance of internal examination during labor except
9 when patient is with antenatal bleeding: health education of the patient, family
10 and community: primary health care services in the community, including
11 nutrition and family planning in carrying out the written order of physicians with
12 regard to antenatal, intra-natal and post-natal care of the normal pregnant mother
13 in giving immunization, including oral and parenteral dispersing of oxytocic drug
14 after delivery of placenta, suturing perennial lacerations to control bleeding, to
15 give intravenous fluid during obstetrical emergencies, **ADMINISTER LIFE-**
16 **SAVING DRUGS SUCH AS MAGNESIUM SULPHATE, OXYTOCIN,**
17 **STERIODS AND ORAL ANTIBIOTICS WHEN NO PHYSICIAN IS**
18 **AVAILABLE,** provided they [have been] **ARE APPROPRIATELY** trained for
19 that purpose [:] **AND CERTIFIED PROFICIENT TO PERFORM THE**
20 **NECESSARY CARE AND SERVICES TO PREVENT MATERNAL**
21 **DEATHS, MIDWIVES ARE ALSO HEREBY ALLOWED TO**
22 **ADMINISTER ESENTIAL NEWBORN CARE INCLUDING, BUT NOT**
23 **LIMITED TO IMMUNIZATION** and [may inject] **INJECTING** Vitamin K to
24 the newborn. *Provided, however,* That this provision shall not apply to students in
25 midwifery schools who perform midwifery service[s] under the supervision of the
26 instructors [, nor to emergency cases].

27 **THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) SHALL ISSUE GUIDELINES**
28 **ON THE ACCREDITATION OF MIDWIVES TO PERFORM**
29 **EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC AND NEONATAL CARE (E/EmONC), ALL**
30 **PRACTICING MIDWIVES WHO INTEND TO PERFORM E/EmONC**

1 MUST APPLY FOR AND ACQUIRE ACCREDITATION FROM THE
2 DOH AFTER NECESSARY TRAININGS AND EXAMINATION AND
3 COMPLIANCE OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS MAY BE
4 DETERMINED BY THE DOH."
5

6 SEC. 2. A new provision is inserted between Sections 23 and 24 of Republic Act No.
7 7392 to read as follows:

8 "SEC. 24. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. – A
9 REGISTERED MIDWIFE IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN
10 COMPETENCE BY CONTINUAL LEARNING THROUGH
11 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) PROGRAM
12 TO BE PROVIDED BY THE ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL
13 ORGANIZATION OR ANY RECOGNIZED PROFESSIONAL
14 MIDWIFERY ORGANIZATION: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE PROGRAM
15 AND ACTIVITY FOR THE CPD SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO AND
16 APPROVED BY THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION,
17 AFTER DUE CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD OF MIDWIFERY:
18 *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE EARNED CPD UNITS SHALL BE
19 MANDATORILY REQUIRED FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE
20 PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD OF A REGISTERED
21 MIDWIFE."
22

23 SEC.3. The following provisions shall be inserted between Sections 26 and 27 of
24 Republic Act No. 7392 to read as follows:

25 "SEC. 28. *HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCE PRODUCTION,*
26 *UTILIZATION, PLACEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.* – THE BOARD, IN
27 COORDINATION WITH THE ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL
28 ORGANIZATION AND APPROPRIATE GOVERN-MENTOR PRIVATE
29 AGENCIES, SHALL INITIATE, UNDERTAKE AND CONDUCT
30 STUDIES ON HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCE PRODUCTION,
31 UTILIZATION, PLACEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE
32 CONTINUING PROFESSIONALIZATION OF MIDWIFERY.

33 SEC. 29. *COMPREHENSIVE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM.* – WITHIN
34 ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE BOARD,
35 IN COORDINATION WITH THE ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL
36 ORGANIZATION, NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ACCREDITED
37 SERVICE PROVIDERS AND THE DOH, IS HEREBY MANDATED TO
38 FORMULATE AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MIDWIFERY
39 PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES A VALID ASSESSMENT OF CAREER
40 PERFORMANCE AND POTENTIAL, THUS, UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF
41 SKILL AND COMPETENCE OF MIDWIVES IN THE COUNTRY SUCH
42 AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE AREAS OF SKILL OF MATERNAL
43 AND CHILD CARE AND SUCH AOTHR AREAS AS MAY BE
44 DETERMINED BY THE BOARD. THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE
45 PROGRAM ARE OBLIGED TO SERVE IN ANY RURAL OR
46 COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWO (2)

1 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE COMPLETION OF THE
2 PROGRAM.

3 SEC. 30. SALARY AND COMPENSATION. – IN ORDER TO
4 ENHANCE THE GENERAL WELFARE AND COMMITMENT TO
5 SERVICE AND PROFESSIONALISM OF MIDWIVES, THE MINIMUM
6 BASE PAY OF MIDWIVES WORKING IN PUBLIC HEALTH
7 INSTITUTIONS SHALL NOT BE LOWER THAN THE 1ST STEP OF THE
8 HIRING RATE PRESCRIBED FOR THE POSITIONS UNDER
9 EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 201.

10 SEC. 31. *FUNDING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MIDWIFERY*
11 *PROGRAM.* – THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT NEEDED TO
12 TRAIN AT LEAST TEN PERCENT (10%) OF MIDWIVES OF THE
13 PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL SHALL BE INCLUDED
14 IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT; PROVIDED,
15 THAT THE DOH SHALL SET THE CRITERIA FOR THE AVAILMENT
16 OF THIS PROGRAM."

17
18 SEC. 4. Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Professional Regulation
19 Commission, in coordination with the DOH and the accredited professional organization of
20 registered midwives, shall promulgate a new implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act
21 No. 7392 which shall be published in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

22
23 SEC. 5. If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other
24 provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

25
26 SEC 6. All laws, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed
27 or modified accordingly.

28
29 SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
30 Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,