

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9202**



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO INFORMATION ABOUT
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2012, Republic Act No. 10354 otherwise known as the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act was enacted into law. This important legislation guarantees universal access to methods on contraception, fertility control, sexual education, and maternal care.

However, almost a decade after its enactment, the country continues to face rising cases of teenage pregnancies and sexually-transmitted infections like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) due to the deficiency in the dissemination of information regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights.

This bill seeks to uphold the sexual and reproductive health and rights of Filipinos and to provide better access to quality, accessible, and reliable information that would empower choices for reproductive health care services including but not limited to adolescence, family planning, maternal and newborn health, trauma and gender-based violence, and sexually transmitted infections.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “**Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Information Act**”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Towards this end, the State shall provide accessible, reliable, and relevant information on sexual and reproductive health care to all people especially women.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Government Authority** – any authority of any branch, instrumentality, agency of National Government, or any local government unit;
- b. **Sexual and reproductive health** – the state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system.

SECTION 4. Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Information. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no government authority shall in or through any program or activity, administered or assisted by such authority, that provides health care services or information, limit the right of any person to provide, or of any person to receive non-fraudulent information about the availability of reproductive health care services including but not limited to adolescence,

family planning, maternal and newborn health, trauma and gender-based violence, and sexually transmitted infections.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within fifteen (15) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education shall, in coordination with the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippine Commission on Women, Local Government and other stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,