

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 3652



Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL**

AN ACT
GRANTING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO TRIPLETS, QUADRUPLETS
AND OTHER HIGHER ORDER MULTIPLE BIRTHS, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mothers diagnosed to have multiple pregnancies experience mixed happiness and trepidation. The mothers and fathers are often unsure of their capacity to sustain the family. Relative to single pregnancy, parents are confronted with higher medical expenses due to extended hospital confinement, frequent hospital visits for prenatal, delivery and postnatal check-ups, hospital obstetrical care and postnatal care. Furthermore, many babies born in the set (i.e. triplets, etc.) have lower birth weight and have increased possibility of confinement to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Almost half of all multiple births are premature.

There are cases of deaths of one or more babies and even of mothers resulting from complications during pregnancy or at childbirth. This situation then becomes doubly devastating for the family, psychologically and financially.

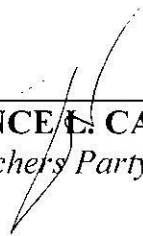
After birth, extra care and attention are needed by these babies and their mothers more than what the single childbirths require. Thus, there is a need to extend both maternity and paternity leave benefits to help the children and the parents of their situation.

Children of multiple births also mean additional financial burden to the parents—doubling or tripling the expenses for every child as they grow older, and more so if they have disabilities. As with most multiple birth incidents, the preparation of the parents having to raise more children than what was expected is an issue that calls upon the government to be concerned about, especially to those from among poor and middle class families.

This Bill seeks to provide assistance to the parents of triplets, quadruplets and higher order multiple births who are facing the problem of raising several children all at the same time and who are not economically prepared for such a situation. Under this measure, the following will be given as mandatory government support to the families within the first and fifth income decile:

1. Free prenatal, delivery and postnatal care services;
2. Funeral expenses in case of death of one or more of the babies and/or their mother;
3. Extended paternity and maternity leaves for parents; and
4. Health and nutrition and educational support.

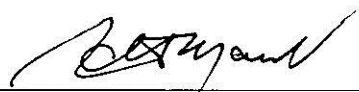
This measure was first filed by Bayan Muna Party-List Rep. Neri Colmenares during the 15th Congress as House Bill 4789. It was refiled during the 16th and 18th Congresses as HB 2613 and HB 6561, respectively. Thus, the immediate approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL
KABATAAN Party-List

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Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Multiple Births Support Law of 2022*”.

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Section 11 of Art. XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- a. *Higher order multiples* – refer to triplets (3 babies), quadruplets (4 babies), quintuplets (5 babies) or even more babies.
- b. *Childbirth expenses* – refer to expenses incurred during pregnancy, at delivery and in the early postnatal period, including hospital, medical and surgical expenses and professional fees of attending physician/s, in all public hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services.
- c. *Extended Paternal and Maternal Leave Benefits* – refer to additional seven (7) days and thirty (30) days granted to the employed father and mother of the high order multiples, respectively, in the public and private sectors. These

are additional days to what is mandated under the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended, and the Republic Act 11199, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 2018.

- d. *Income Decile* - refers to the national income decile as defined by the Philippine Statistics Authority in its Family Income and Expenditure Survey.
- e. *Maternal Death* – refers to death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.
- f. *Medical Services* – refer to hospital services, professional services of physicians and other healthcare professionals, and diagnostics and laboratory tests that are necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury;
- g. *Multiple Birth Loss/es* – refer to the death of any of the higher order multiples through miscarriage, stillbirth and early infant deaths.

Section 4. Coverage. – All Filipino families within the first and fifth income decile shall be entitled to the benefits under this Act.

Section 5. Government Support to Families with Higher Multiple Births. – Parents of higher order multiples shall be entitled to the following assistance:

- a. Free childbirth expenses;
- b. Free funeral expenses in case of maternal death and/or multiple birth loss/es;
- c. Extended paternity and maternity leave benefits;
- d. Monthly government support:
 - 1. Health and nutrition support per child shall be equivalent to the prevailing daily minimum wage.
 - 2. Educational support per child shall be equivalent to one half of the prevailing daily minimum wage.

Provided, That the government support shall be provided until the child/ren reach/es legal age. *Provided further,* That in case the child has physical or mental disability, the government support may be extended depending on the degree and type of disability.

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Health and the Department of Labor and Employment shall jointly issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Section 7. Appropriations. – The amount of Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 8. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void

or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.