



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5460



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT
MANDATING THE PROVISION OF MATERNITY PACKAGES TO PREGNANT
FILIPINO WOMEN BELONGING TO THE LOW-INCOME GROUP, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, in 2020, there a total of 1,528,684 live births were registered in the Philippines. There is an average of 4,177 bases born daily or around 174 babies born per hour and approximately 3 babies born per minute¹.

The 1987 Constitution² provides that:

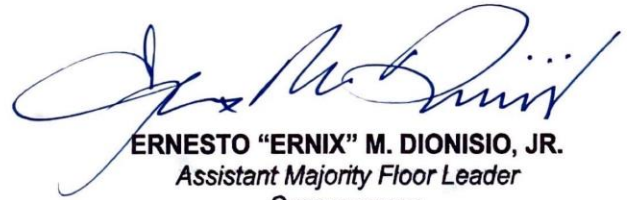
The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

Given the high number of births recorded in the Philippines, the passage of this bill will benefit a lot of Filipino families. This bill will ensure that those families who are in dire need of financial support with regard to the expenses to childbirth will be supported by the government.

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

¹ Registered Live Births in the Philippines, 2020 available at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/registered-live-births-philippines-2020> (last accessed on October 6, 2022).

² Section 9, Article II, 1987 Constitution.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Maternity Kit Act.*"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building. Towards this end, 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 the people at an affordable cost, particularly to indigent pregnant women and their children.

SECTION 3. Maternity Kit for Pregnant Filipino Women Program. – This Act hereby establishes the Maternity Kit Program which may be availed of by expectant mothers who have already been identified as poor or near-poor based on the Standardized Targeting System under Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act." The expectant mothers must be identified by the barangays as belonging to the poor or near-poor demographic under RA No. 11310.

In order to qualify, pregnant women must avail of pre-natal services, give birth in a health facility attended by a skilled health professional, and receive post-partum care and post-natal care for her newborn.

The maternity kit, to be distributed once free of charge to qualified beneficiaries, shall contain necessary items such as a blanket, diapers, gauze, towels, nappies,

bedding, cloth/fabric, and childcare products. Additional content may be added to the maternity kit subject to the discretion of the implementing agency. The content of the maternity kit shall be updated by the implementing agency every two (2) years.

SECTION 4. Implementing Agency. – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall serve as the central planning, implementing, and monitoring body of the Program.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the DSWD, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation hereof.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not so affected.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,