Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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19th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10141

Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne Hernandez
Lone District of Calamba, Laguna

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State that it shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. This Act seeks to inaugurate a vital initiative aimed at enhancing the health and welfare of children and supporting mothers within the city of Calamba, Laguna. The establishment of a breastmilk bank is not merely a facility, it is envisioned as a cornerstone of community health and empowerment, reflecting our collective dedication to the well-being of the next generation and the support of motherhood.

Breastmilk is universally acknowledged as the paramount source of nutrition for infants, offering a comprehensive composition of nutrients, antibodies, and hormones vital for the optimal development and health of newborns. Despite the known benefits, numerous mothers encounter difficulties in breastfeeding due to a range of medical and socio-economic factors. This initiative is designed to bridge that gap, ensuring that no infant is deprived of the benefits of breastmilk, while also providing crucial support and education to mothers facing breastfeeding challenges.

The necessity for this Act is underscored by the pressing circumstances in Calamba, Laguna, where a significant need for donated breastmilk exists alongside a stark absence of local facilities capable of safely processing and pasteurizing such donations. This

deficiency not only hinders the potential for breastmilk donation but also jeopardizes the health and survival of the city's most vulnerable infants, including those who are premature, ill, orphaned, or rescued.

The establishment of a breastmilk bank in Calamba addresses these critical issues head-on by facilitating the collection, screening, processing, and distribution of donated breastmilk. It aims to provide a sustainable and efficient solution to the challenges currently faced, ensuring that infants in need receive the nourishment essential for their growth and development. Furthermore, by serving as a center for breastfeeding support and education, the initiative also empowers mothers with the knowledge and resources necessary for successful breastfeeding, thereby promoting improved maternal and child health outcomes.

Let this initiative reflect our commitment to health, equality, and empowerment. By supporting the establishment of a breastmilk bank in Calamba, Laguna, we take a significant step towards building a healthier, stronger, and more nurturing future for our community.

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

CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ
Lone District, Calamba City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 10141

Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne Hernandez
Lone District of Calamba, Laguna

AN ACT ESTABLISHING BREASTMILK COLLECTION, PASTEURIZATION AND STORAGE FACILITY IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, TO BE KNOWN AS CALAMBA CITY BREASTMILK BANK AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. ***Declaration of State Policy*** - This state policy is founded on the principles of public health, child welfare, and maternal support, aiming to ensure that all infants, regardless of their circumstances, have access to the life-sustaining benefits of breastmilk. The policy recognizes the critical role of breastmilk in preventing infant mortality and morbidity, promoting long-term health, and fostering a strong bond between mother and child.

Section 2. ***Objectives*** - the following are the objectives of this act:

1. Ensuring Infant Nutrition: Provide a reliable source of safe and nutritious breastmilk to infants who are unable to be breastfed directly due to health issues, absence of the mother, or other compelling reasons.
2. Supporting Mothers: Offer comprehensive support services to breastfeeding mothers, including education, counseling, and assistance, to overcome challenges in breastfeeding and encourage the donation of breastmilk.

3. Facilitating Breastmilk Donation: Establish a structured and efficient system for the collection, screening, processing, pasteurization, and distribution of donated breastmilk, adhering to the highest standards of safety and quality.
4. Promoting Public Awareness: Advocate for the importance of breastfeeding and breastmilk donation through education and awareness campaigns, targeting both the general public and healthcare professionals.
5. Enhancing Community Health: Collaborate with healthcare institutions, non-governmental organizations, and community groups to strengthen the support network for breastfeeding mothers and ensure the optimal health and development of infants.

Section 3. ***Establishment of Calamba Breastmilk Bank.*** **-** There shall be established in the City of Calamba, Province of Laguna, a breastmilk collection, pasteurization and storage facility to be known as the Calamba Breastmilk Bank, which shall be under the direction and supervision of the City Government of LGU.

Section 4. ***Funding of Calamba Breastmilk Bank.*** **-** The City Government of LGU shall immediately include in the City's program, the establishment, operation and maintenance of the Calamba Breastmilk Bank, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the City Government of LGU.

Section 5. ***Rules and Regulations*****.** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health, following comprehensive consultations with health professionals from both the public and private sectors, including the City Health Office of Calamba, the City Nutrition Office of Calamba, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall develop and promulgate the rules and regulation for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 6. ***Effectivity*****.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.