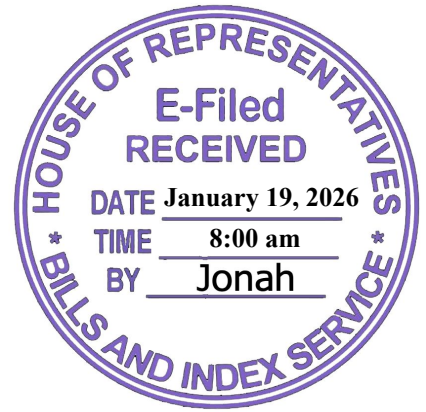




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7143

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution has enshrined several protections to safeguard the welfare of children. One of these is in Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, where the State is mandated to "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all." In line with this agenda, previous administrations have passed measures and implemented policies which aim to achieve these lofty goals.

Presidential Decree No. 1567 mandated the creation of barangay day care centers across the country. To strengthen this policy thrust, the legislature passed Republic Act No. 6972 in 1990 to expand the roles of day care centers to include growth and nutritional monitoring, and barangay assistance programs. In 2000, Republic Act No. 8980 further created a comprehensive policy framework for early childhood.

However, several years since the passage of these statutes, experience has shown that more needs to be done to improve the quality of, and accessibility to, day care centers in the country. According to a report by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) in partnership with the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2), there were around 5,800 barangays which still not have child development centers despite RA 6792 requires each barangay in the country to have at least one. Of these, 229 belong to low-income LGUs.¹

The same study also said that only 20% of children aged 3-4 were enrolled in pre-kindergarten in 2022, and just 23 % benefitted from feeding programs.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that in January 2025, of the 28.66 million Filipinos not in the labor force, 18.6 million were women, nearly double the 10.1 million men. It is noted that married women, particularly those

¹ Phl faces shortage of 33K daycare centers – study. Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Available at <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/phl-faces-shortage-of-33k-daycare-centers-study>. Accessed on January 15, 2026.

with higher education, often leave the workforce to care for children. It is also added that women's career choices are often shaped by family responsibilities, leading them to seek jobs closer to home with flexible work arrangements.² This means that lack of childcare support is a barrier to a woman's opportunity to seek employment.

This bill seeks to address the problem of accessibility of working parents to day care centers, as well as expand the opportunities for women to seek employment. This measure aims to ensure that day care services are available for the whole duration of the work hours of working parents and for an additional two hours to account for the travel time of the parent to the day center to fetch their child/children. It also mandates the government to make available financial assistance for parents who are minimum wage earners for payment of needed childcare services. Lastly, this bill seeks to bridge the gender gap between men and women with regard to childcare by clarifying that childcare services are available to children of "working parents" and not merely to "working mothers."

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

² March 8, 2025. Women still earn less in the lowest-paying jobs—PSA. Business Mirror. Available at <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/08/food-for-thought-on-womens-month-women-still-earn-less-in-the-lowest-paying-jobs-psa/>. Accessed on January 15, 2026.

"(c) Care for children of working **PARENTS** [~~mothers~~] during the day and, where feasible, care for children up to six (6) years of age when **BOTH PARENTS** [~~mothers~~] are working at night:

PROVIDED, THAT SUCH CARE SHALL LAST DURING THE WORK HOURS OF THE WORKING PARENT/S AND AN ADDITIONAL TIME OF UP TO TWO HOURS; PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE BARANGAY DAY CARE CENTER SHALL HAVE THE DISCRETION TO COLLECT A REASONABLE FEE FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES RENDERED BEYOND TEN (10) HOURS; provided **FURTHER**, that the day care center need not to take care of children in a particular place but shall develop network of homes where women may take care of the children up to six (6) years of age of working [~~mothers~~ **PARENTS** during work hours, with adequate supervision from the supervising social welfare officer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development: provided, further, that, where young children are left to the care of paid domestic, an elderly relative or older children without adequate and competent adult supervision, the supervising social welfare officer shall provide such training and adult supervision until the children's care meets adequate standards whereby the children under their care will develop normally as healthy, happy and loved children, even in the absence of their mothers during working hours;"

SEC. 4. A new Section 5-A is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SECTION 5-A. CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE. - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PAYMENT OF CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN NOT MORE THAN SIX (6) YEARS OLD SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THRU THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDED, THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE SHALL ONLY BE GRANTED TO PARENT/S WHO ARE MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS; PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHALL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE ACCREDITED PRIVATE DAY CARE CENTER AS FEE REDUCTION."

SEC. 5. Appropriations. - An amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial year of implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the proper implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with other relevant government agencies and upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

1 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
2 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
3 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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7 *Approved,*