



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7747

Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PREVENTION
OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY, PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF
ADOLESCENTS, INSTITUTIONALIZING COORDINATED GOVERNMENT ACTION,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Adolescent pregnancy is a serious social and public health concern in the Philippines. It affects the health, education, economic prospects, and development of Filipino youth. The State has taken various measures, such as Executive Order No. 141 (s. 2021), the Joint Programme on Accelerating the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy (JPAP), and the ProtecTEEN Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. However, these interventions remain largely programmatic, fragmented in implementation, and reliant on executive action. They lack a comprehensive and permanent statutory framework.

Philippine Statistics Authority data show that the proportion of Filipino women aged fifteen to nineteen who have ever been pregnant declined from 8.6 percent in 2017 to 5.4 percent in 2022. Despite this drop, the absolute number of adolescent pregnancies is still substantial. Thousands of young women continue to enter early motherhood each year. These figures show adolescent pregnancy remains a significant phenomenon with lasting consequences for individuals and the public.

Demographic evidence reveals marked regional, economic, and social disparities. Higher rates of adolescent pregnancy occur in rural areas compared to urban areas. Adolescents from the poorest households are most affected. Educational attainment also matters; those with only primary education face much higher pregnancy rates than those who complete secondary or higher schooling. These patterns show adolescent pregnancy is both a cause and consequence of structural inequality.

Local data show the direct impact of adolescent pregnancy. In some provinces, teenage mothers account for a significant share of registered live births. Some cases involve minors below the age of majority. These situations raise serious concerns about child protection, access to services, and enforcement of existing laws.

National demographic analyses indicate that the number of adolescent mothers, especially those aged ten to nineteen, remains high. There are troubling increases among very young adolescents aged ten to fourteen. These trends require increased State attention. Pregnancies at these ages involve greater health risks and potential abuse or coercion.

The effects of adolescent pregnancy go beyond immediate health concerns. Early childbearing raises the risk of obstetric complications and adverse neonatal outcomes. It also leads to higher school dropout rates, limited employment opportunities, and intergenerational poverty. These outcomes impose substantial social and economic costs on families, communities, and the State.

Despite ongoing efforts, public debate, persistent stigma, and barriers to reproductive health information and services remain. These factors limit the effectiveness of current interventions. They underscore the need for a unified legal framework that defines State policy, institutional responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms.

This measure aims to create a comprehensive national policy on adolescent pregnancy prevention and response, established in law. Key recommendations include: enacting legal protections for adolescents at risk of early pregnancy, expanding access to comprehensive sexuality education in schools, improving availability and quality of adolescent health care services (including reproductive health), providing psychosocial support through trained professionals, ensuring non-discrimination in service provision, creating opportunities for adolescent participation in policy-making, and establishing robust, data-driven monitoring and evaluation systems.

In summary, this Act affirms the State's constitutional duty to protect adolescents' rights to health, education, information, and development. It creates a clear legal framework. This framework guides government agencies, local government units, educational institutions, communities, families, and civil society. Together, they can coordinate efforts to prevent adolescent pregnancy and address its consequences for current and future generations.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the National Policy on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to recognize the prevention of adolescent pregnancy as a national priority. This aligns with Executive Order No. 141, series of 2021. It is also regarded as an essential part of national development, public health, and social protection policy.

The State shall protect and promote the rights, health, education, and well-being of adolescents. This complies with the Constitution and the Philippines' international human rights obligations. The State is committed to shielding adolescents from conditions that harm their development or limit participation in society.

Further, the State shall ensure universal access to age-appropriate, evidence-based, and culturally sensitive information and services on sexual and reproductive health. These services will equip adolescents with sufficient knowledge to make informed decisions. The State will also respect parental authority, cultural values, and existing laws.

Furthermore, the State is committed to preventing discrimination, stigma, and exclusion against pregnant adolescents and adolescent parents, especially in education, healthcare, and social protection. Measures will be put in place to ensure their continued access to education, health services, and social support. These measures will align with equity and human dignity.

Finally, the State shall establish a coordinated, sustained, and adequately funded whole-of-government approach to address the root causes and long-term consequences of adolescent pregnancy. This includes strengthening inter-agency collaboration, ensuring accountability, and promoting effective implementation. These efforts will occur at both national and local levels.

SECTION 3. *Guiding Principles.* - Implementation of this Act shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) Human Rights and Gender Equality – Consistent with the CRC, CEDAW, and the ICPD Programme of Action;
- (b) Best Interests of the Child – In all actions affecting adolescents;
- (c) Informed Consent, Confidentiality, and Privacy – In accordance with existing laws and ethical standards;
- (d) Equity and Inclusion – With particular attention to adolescents in vulnerable situations, including those in poverty, rural and geographically isolated areas, indigenous communities, and humanitarian settings;
- (e) Adolescent Participation – Ensuring meaningful participation of adolescents in policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

“Adolescent” refers to persons aged ten (10) to nineteen (19) years;

“Adolescent Pregnancy” refers to pregnancy occurring among adolescents;

“Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)” refers to age-appropriate, evidence-based, and culturally relevant education on human development, relationships, values, sexual and reproductive health, and rights; and

“Adolescent-Friendly Health Services” refer to accessible, acceptable, equitable, appropriate, and effective health services for adolescents.

SECTION 5. *Institutionalization of a National Policy on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention.* - A comprehensive national policy on adolescent pregnancy prevention is hereby established. It shall integrate and strengthen existing government programs and initiatives addressing adolescent pregnancy, including, but not limited to, the Joint Programme on Accelerating the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy (JPAP) and the ProtecTEEN Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in order to ensure coherence, effectiveness, and sustainability of interventions. Further, the policy shall ensure continuity and stability of adolescent pregnancy prevention measures beyond executive issuances, time-bound projects, and externally funded initiatives, by anchoring such efforts on a permanent statutory mandate. Finally, the policy shall harmonize the actions of national government agencies and local government units under a unified legal framework, thereby promoting coordinated planning, consistent implementation, and shared accountability in addressing adolescent pregnancy at all levels of governance.

SECTION 6. *Creation of the Inter-Agency Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and its Local Counterparts.* - There is hereby created an Inter-Agency Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (IAC-APP), which shall serve as the primary policy-making, coordinating, and monitoring body for the implementation of this Act. The Council shall be chaired by the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), with the Department of Health (DOH) as Co-Chair.

The IAC-APP shall be composed of the following as members: the Department of Education (DepEd); the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); the National Youth Commission (NYC); the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW); and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC). Other government agencies, as may be determined by the Council and as necessary for the effective implementation of this Act, may likewise be designated as members.

The Council shall formulate policies, ensure inter-agency coordination, oversee and harmonize national and local government initiatives, and monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act.

The local councils shall be responsible for the localized implementation of this Act, including planning, coordination, monitoring, and reporting, in accordance with national policies and standards set by the IAC-APP.

The powers and functions of the IAC-APP shall include the following

- (a) Formulate, adopt, and recommend policies, plans, and strategies for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, consistent with this Act and existing laws;
- (b) Coordinate and harmonize the programs, projects, and activities of national government agencies relating to adolescent pregnancy prevention;
- (c) Oversee and ensure the effective, timely, and uniform implementation of this Act at the national and local levels;
- (d) Establish standards, guidelines, and indicators for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes and impact of adolescent pregnancy prevention initiatives;
- (e) Ensure the integration of rights-based, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive approaches in all programs and services covered by this Act;
- (f) Recommend the allocation and mobilization of resources, including budgetary support, to ensure the sustainability of interventions;
- (g) Submit periodic reports to the appropriate oversight bodies on the status of implementation of this Act; and
- (h) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Local Inter-Agency Councils on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention shall likewise be created at the regional, provincial, city, and municipal levels. These local councils shall be chaired by the local population officer or its equivalent, with the local health officer as Co-Chair, and shall be composed of the local offices or representatives of the Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of the Interior and Local Government, the local youth development office, the local social welfare and development office, and such other offices or stakeholders as may be determined by the local chief executive.

The powers and functions of the local councils shall include the following:

- (a) Implement national policies, plans, and programs on adolescent pregnancy prevention within their respective jurisdictions;

- (b) Formulate and execute local action plans consistent with national standards and local conditions;
- (c) Coordinate the delivery of health, education, social protection, and youth services at the local level;
- (d) Monitor and report on the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and the implementation of interventions within their areas;
- (e) Mobilize local resources and partnerships to support adolescent pregnancy prevention initiatives; and
- (f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act at the local level.

SECTION 7. *National Prevention Strategies.* - The State shall adopt the following prevention measures:

- (a) Strengthening and institutionalizing Comprehensive Sexuality Education within the formal and non-formal education systems;
- (b) Expanding access to adolescent-friendly reproductive health services, including counseling and family planning, consistent with Republic Act No. 10354;
- (c) Community-based interventions addressing poverty, gender-based violence, child marriage, and other structural drivers of adolescent pregnancy;
- (d) Engagement of families, youth organizations, faith-based groups, and local communities.

SECTION 8. *Healthcare and Psychosocial Support.* - The State shall ensure:

- (a) Access to quality **prenatal, childbirth, postnatal, and mental health services** for pregnant adolescents;
- (b) Psychosocial interventions, parenting education, and referral services for adolescent parents;
- (c) Post-abortion care, in accordance with existing laws and medical ethics.

SECTION 9. *Education and Social Protection.* - No adolescent shall be denied the right to education on account of pregnancy or parenthood. The State shall:

- (a) Ensure re-entry, retention, and completion of education for pregnant adolescents and adolescent parents;
- (b) Prohibit discrimination, expulsion, or punitive practices in schools;
- (c) Provide social protection, skills training, and livelihood support, in coordination with relevant agencies.

SECTION 10. *Role of Local Government Units.* - Local government units (LGUs) shall:

- (a) Implement local adolescent pregnancy prevention programs aligned with this Act;
- (b) Allocate funds from local budgets; and
- (c) Engage Sangguniang Kabataan and local youth councils in planning and implementation.

SECTION 11. *Funding.* - The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. LGUs are also authorized to allocate funds for local implementation.

SECTION 12. *Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting.* - The IAC-APP shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing progress, challenges, data trends, and policy recommendations.

SECTION 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the IAC-APP in coordination with concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 14. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 15. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 16. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,