

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8108



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF BASIC INFANT CARE FACILITIES, INCLUDING
DIAPER-CHANGING STATIONS AND CHILD-FRIENDLY SEATING, IN
GOVERNMENT OFFICES, PUBLIC PLACES, AND CERTAIN BUSINESS
ESTABLISHMENTS; PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS, ENFORCEMENT,
AND PENALTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Parents and caregivers often bring babies and young children with them when they go to government offices, hospitals, transport terminals, restaurants, and other public places. Yet many of these places still do not have basic facilities like safe diaper-changing stations or proper seating for infants. As a result, caregivers are forced to change diapers in unsafe or unsanitary areas or struggle to care for their children in ways that are uncomfortable and undignified.

This bill addresses a simple but important need. It requires government offices and covered public establishments to provide basic infant-friendly facilities that are clean, safe, and accessible. Caring for a baby is part of everyday life, and families should not be discouraged or disadvantaged when they access public services or conduct daily transactions. Just as the law already requires lactation stations to support breastfeeding mothers, providing diaper-changing stations and child-friendly seating is a logical and necessary step to protect infant health and family welfare.

Some establishments already offer these facilities, but access remains uneven and depends largely on location or management choice. This leaves many families, especially low-income caregivers who rely on public offices and terminals, without

proper support. By setting a clear national standard, this bill promotes public health, cleanliness, and dignity, and helps ensure that public spaces in the Philippines are truly family-friendly.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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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 *“Infant Care Facilities in Public Places and Workplaces Act.”*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to promote public health, child welfare, and family-friendly public services by ensuring that parents, guardians, and caregivers have access to **safe, sanitary, and accessible** infant care facilities in government offices and public-facing establishments, including diaper-changing stations and child-friendly seating, subject to reasonable space and safety standards.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this Act:

- (a) **“Government Offices”** refer to national government agencies, constitutional commissions, offices of local government units, and government-owned or -controlled corporations that transact with the public.

(b) **“Covered Establishments”** shall refer to:

1. **Major Establishments**, as defined in paragraph (c); and
2. **Food Service Establishments** meeting the seating threshold in paragraph (d).

(c) **“Major Establishments”** refer to malls, shopping centers, public transportation terminals, theaters and cinemas, convention centers, sports arenas, auditoriums, cultural complexes, exhibition halls, permanent amusement parks, hospitals and other health facilities, gasoline stations with public restrooms, and other establishments open to the public with total gross floor area or occupancy load meeting thresholds to be determined in the IRR.

(d) **“Food Service Establishment”** refers to a restaurant, cafeteria, fast-food outlet, or similar business primarily engaged in selling food or beverages for on-premises consumption, including those located within malls or similar structures; **Provided**, that establishments which by policy do not admit persons below eighteen (18) years of age are excluded.

(e) **“Common Seating”** refers to the actual number of customer seats regularly available for on-premises dining.

(f) **“Child-Friendly Seating”** refers to a high chair, booster seat, or other seating equipment designed for infants or young children to be seated safely at tables or counters, meeting safety standards set by the DOH in coordination with relevant agencies.

(g) **“Diaper-Changing Station”** refers to a fixed or foldable surface or table located in or near a restroom, designed for safe diaper changing, with required safety features (including stable mounting and load rating), sanitation features, and access to hand hygiene facilities or a nearby lavatory, consistent with standards prescribed by the DOH.

(h) **“Infant or Young Child”** refers to a child from birth up to thirty-six (36) months of age.

SECTION 4. Minimum Infant Care Facilities Required. — Covered Establishments and Government Offices shall provide:

(a) **Diaper-changing stations** accessible to caregivers; and

- (b) **Child-friendly seating** in covered food service establishments, as provided in Section 6.

SECTION 5. Diaper-Changing Stations; Location and Accessibility. —

- (a) **General Rule.** Every Major Establishment and Government Office shall provide at least one (1) diaper-changing station that is safe, sanitary, and reasonably accessible to the public.
- (b) **Gender Accessibility.** Diaper-changing stations shall be:
1. Available in **both** men's and women's restrooms; or
 2. Located in a **gender-neutral/family restroom** accessible to all genders; or
 3. Located in a common area adjacent to restrooms that provides privacy and safety, as may be allowed under the IRR.
- (c) **Per Floor Requirement.** Where practicable, at least one (1) diaper-changing station shall be provided per floor occupied by the establishment or office and open to the public; Provided, that the IRR may allow equivalent compliance for buildings with centralized restrooms.
- (d) **Minimum Standards.** The diaper-changing station shall not be located inside a toilet cubicle if placement creates sanitation or safety risks. It must comply with DOH standards on cleanliness, ventilation, and equipment.

SECTION 6. Child-Friendly Seating in Food Service Establishments. —

- (a) **Duty to Provide on Request.** Covered food service establishments shall make available child-friendly seating to patrons with an infant or young child, subject to availability and safety.
- (b) **Minimum Ratio.** Covered food service establishments with ten (10) or more common seats shall provide at least **one (1) child-friendly seat for every ten (10) common seats**, or a fraction thereof, up to a maximum to be set by the IRR based on reasonable space and demand.
- (c) **Sanitation.** Child-friendly seating shall be maintained in clean and sanitary condition and shall be inspected regularly.

SECTION 7. Exemptions and Alternative Compliance. —

- (a) **Structural Impossibility / Space Constraints.** Existing establishments may be granted alternative compliance (e.g., a centrally located diaper-changing station within the building) if strict compliance is not feasible due to structural constraints, subject to DOH standards and prior approval.
- (b) **Restaurant Exception (Central Facility).** A restaurant with seating capacity of fifty (50) or more may be exempted from installing its own diaper-changing station if a centrally located diaper-changing station is available within a reasonable walking distance to be set in the IRR, provided such facility is open during operating hours and is accessible to restaurant patrons.

SECTION 8. Implementing Agency; Standards; Inspections. —

- (a) **Lead Agency.** The Department of Health (DOH) shall be the lead agency for setting minimum public health and sanitation standards for facilities required under this Act, in coordination with DILG, DTi (as appropriate for business compliance), DPWH (for building standards interface), and LGUs.
- (b) **Consistency with Existing Public Health Facilities Standards.** The DOH shall ensure that standards under this Act are consistent with the requirements for clean, private, and sanitary facilities in public places, consistent with analogous public health facility mandates.
- (c) **Inspection and Compliance.** LGUs, through their licensing and inspection functions, and local DOH offices, as applicable, shall conduct periodic inspections and enforce compliance as part of business permit renewal and government office facility compliance.
- (d) **No Overreach in IRR.** The IRR shall be confined to implementing this Act and shall not create prohibitions or penalties beyond what this Act provides, consistent with jurisprudence.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with DILG and other relevant agencies and after consultation with stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 10. Transition Period. — Covered Establishments and Government Offices existing at the time of effectivity shall have **one (1) year** to comply. New establishments and newly occupied government offices shall comply prior to opening to the public or commencement of operations, as may be provided in the IRR.

SECTION 11. Penalties and Administrative Sanctions. —

- (a) **Notice to Comply.** For first-time inspection findings, the enforcing office shall issue a written notice specifying deficiencies and giving a cure period of not less than thirty (30) days, unless the violation poses an immediate health or safety risk.
- (b) **Fines.** Failure to comply after the cure period shall subject the establishment or office to an administrative fine of **Two thousand pesos (PHP 2,000.00) per day of continuing violation**, until compliance.
- (c) **For Business Establishments.** Continued refusal to comply may be a ground for non-renewal of business permits, subject to due process and applicable local ordinances.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,