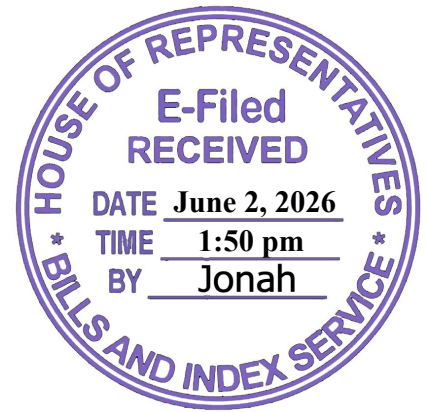


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **9652**



**Introduced by Representatives OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE and
PAOLO Z. DUTERTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The contemporary Philippine socioeconomic landscape presents a profound structural paradox for families. While the nation frequently ranks as a leading performer in global gender equality indexes, macroeconomic pressures, severe regional climate and energy disruptions, and unprecedented inflationary dynamics have fundamentally reshaped household stability. Data indicates that Filipino families face an average annual living expenditure that demands both parents participate actively in the labor force just to cross baseline poverty thresholds.

Despite this dual-income necessity, the structural support system for childcare remains severely fragmented, imposing what economists define as a heavy and persistent motherhood penalty. According to empirical assessments compiled by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and localized labor indicators, married women in the Philippines are roughly 40% less likely to successfully transition into or remain within the formal labor force compared to single women. This disparity is directly driven by the lopsided distribution of caregiving. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shows that women across the archipelago spend nearly double the hours on unpaid care and domestic workloads as men, which remains as a burden that has intensified due to recent localized utilities and economic bottlenecks.

The existing Barangay Day Care Center system, governed by Republic Act No. 6972 and Republic Act No. 10410, shall be distinguished from the proposed Child-Minding Facilities (CMFs). While Day Care Centers are vital community assets, they were never legally or operationally designed to support full-time working parents. Traditional day care centers focus strictly on early childhood education and pre-kindergarten preparation for children aged 3 to 5 years old. Consequently, they operate on a highly abbreviated schedule of only two to four hours per session, typically requiring parents to pick up their children by midday. Furthermore, their physical layouts resemble standard classrooms with small desks and blackboards, and a single worker is frequently left to manage a massive cohort of 25 to 30 children simultaneously.

The Child-Minding Facilities (CMFs) institutionalized under this measure are built as an explicit response to the dual-income care crisis, operating not as a brief educational school day, but as a full-day labor support system. The said facilities bridge the unaddressed developmental gap by expanding eligibility down to vulnerable infants and toddlers aged 6 months up to 4 years old. Operationally, CMFs are mandated to remain open for a minimum of eleven consecutive hours daily to fully mirror full-time work shifts and commuting realities. Structurally and medically, they swap out traditional classrooms for sterile infant environments equipped with dedicated, safe zones for crawling, napping, and hygienic milk preparation. Additionally, they enforce strict,

medically backed child-to-caregiver ratios, which ranges from 1:3 for infants up to 1:6 for older toddlers, all supervised by early-care professionals certified by TESDA.

Recent structural audits by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) in 2023 highlight severe gaps in our early childhood systems, revealing that approximately 14% of lower-income municipalities lack any functional daycare infrastructure whatsoever. Left with no viable public alternatives, low-income and informal sector working mothers are forced to rely on highly unstable, informal localized care networks, which often leaves toddlers under the supervision of older school-aged siblings or elderly relatives. This dynamic creates a damaging ripple effect, it stalls the educational progression of older children who miss school to watch younger siblings, keeps mothers trapped in low-paying, highly volatile informal or part-time jobs, and leaves infants exposed to high rates of chronic undernutrition and home hazards during their most critical windows of brain development.

The proposed Bill aims to mitigate said intersectional crises by institutionalizing structured, full-shift, safe, and heavily subsidized Child-Minding Facilities (CMFs) at the municipal and city level. Transforming childcare from an isolated domestic burden into a regulated public utility directly unlocks the economic potential of millions of Filipino women, protects vulnerable single-parent households, and ensures that the lowest-income children receive institutional health, safety, and nutritional scaffolding during their foundational years.

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



HON. OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE



HON. PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **9652**

Introduced by Representatives **OMAR VINCENT S. DUTERTE** and
PAOLO Z. DUTERTE

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE AND REGULATED
CHILD-MINDING FACILITY NETWORK IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY
NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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 “*Comprehensive Child-Minding Support Act of 2026.*”

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the foundational policy of the State to uphold and defend the constitutional right of children to survival, protection, proper care, and optimal early development. The State recognizes that the contemporary economic landscape mandates a dual-income or active labor framework for most Filipino families.

Therefore, the State shall proactively institutionalize standard, accessible, safe, and heavily subsidized child-minding options. This intervention aims to directly mitigate what constitutes “motherhood penalty” in the workforce, foster genuine gender equality in employment opportunities, boost local productivity, and ensure that infants and toddlers are given a safe developmental head-start while their primary caregivers are engaged in gainful economic or educational activities.

SEC 3. *Objectives.* – This Act shall pursue the following objectives::

- a. To establish operational, public child-minding centers in the cities and municipalities across the Philippines;
- b. To remove the systemic barrier of inaccessible childcare that prevents qualified parents, particularly mothers, single parents, and low-income guardians, from seeking or retaining formal, informal, or entrepreneurial employment; and
- c. To protect children aged six (6) months up to four (4) years from structural neglect, domestic hazards, and nutritional deficiency by placing them under specialized professional care during active working hours.

SEC 4. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Academic/Vocational Progression** refers /Individuals currently enrolled in formal high school, higher education, or technical-vocational training under TESDA.
- b. **Active Duty Hours** refers to the operating parameters of a CMF, which must span a minimum of eleven (11) consecutive hours daily (e.g. 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM) to fully accommodate standard shifts, commute realities, and emergency occupational delays experienced by working parents.
- c. **Child-Minding Facility (CMF)** refers to a structurally sound, state-licensed, medically clean, and highly secure physical space established by or in partnership with local government units. It is specifically structured for the non-residential, short-term care, feeding, behavioral monitoring, and age-appropriate stimulation of eligible children during active professional, agricultural, informal, or educational hours, operating separate and distinct from standard academic kindergarten environments.
- d. **Child-to-Caregiver Ratio** refers to the strictly mandated, legally binding maximum number of children that can be placed under the supervision of a single certified child-minding professional at any given point in time.
- e. **Eligible Child** refers to any infant or toddler aged six (6) months up to four (4) years old, who has not yet aged into the formal kindergarten system, and whose primary legal caregivers are confirmed to be engaged in external socio-economic or training activities.
- f. **Formal Sector Employment** refers to full-time or part-time salary work in public or private offices.
- g. **Informal Sector Labor** refers to Day-wage labor, street vending, transport driving, agricultural work, fisherfolk activities, or gigs.
- h. **Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship** refers to Micro, small, or medium-scale business owners, as well as home-based remote workers.
- i. **Subsidized Care Structure** refers to a sliding-scale economic model wherein the operational expenses of caring for a child are offset by public funds. Fees are calculated dynamically based on verified household income data provided by the local Social Welfare office.
- j. **Working Parents / Primary Caregivers** refers to biological parents, single parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, or foster parents who are actively and documentably engaged in formal sector employment, informal sector labor, self-employment and entrepreneurship, or academic/vocational progression.

SEC 5. *Establishment of Child-Minding Centers.* – Every city and municipality in the Philippines is hereby mandated to establish, operate, and maintain at least one (1) highly accessible public child-minding center within its immediate territory.

Highly urbanized cities, commercial capitals, and first- to third-class municipalities shall be required to establish multiple scattered centers. The placement of these facilities must be strategically localized within five hundred (500) meters of high-density workforce environments, including public markets, economic zones, commercial complexes, and low-cost residential communities.

Municipalities with highly dispersed agricultural or coastal setups must implement mobile or neighborhood-based sub-stations to cater directly to rural working mothers.

SEC 6. *Minimum Facility Standards and Structural Safety.* – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in strict collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH) and the National Nutrition Council (NNC), shall formulate a centralized structural protocol. No CMF shall operate without fulfilling the following requirements:

- a. Separated, dedicated rooms for sleeping/napping, safe crawling/play, and sterile milk/food preparation;
- b. To ensure infant safety, the maximum limits are set at:
 - i. Ages 6 months to 12 months: One (1) caregiver to three (3) infants.
 - ii. Ages 13 months to 24 months: One (1) caregiver to four (4) toddlers.
 - iii. Ages 25 months to 4 years: One (1) caregiver to six (6) children;
- c. Installation of high-definition, cloud-backed CCTV systems covering all entry points and main care areas, allowing transparent administrative audits; and
- d. Daily sterilization routines, child-proofed structural components, smoke alarms, and an isolated triage nook for children manifesting sudden illnesses. A designated Barangay Health Worker (BHW) must be assigned to conduct health checks twice daily.

SEC 7. *Qualifications of a Child-Minding Officer* – Child-minding is recognized under this Act as a highly specialized profession. A Child-Minding Officer shall possess the following qualifications:

- a. Must undergo mandatory psychological evaluation, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) clearance, and physical fitness screening;
- b. Must hold an Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) national certification or a specialized Child-Minding NC program which TESDA is hereby mandated to design and subsidize; and
- c. Compulsory annual retraining in pediatric first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and infant nutrition which shall be funded by the local government.

SEC 8. *Progressive Access, Enrolment, and Socialized Fees.* – No child shall be denied entry based on the informal employment status of their parents.

There shall be an established Tiered Pricing System to avail of the Child-Minding Facility

(CMF), to wit:

a. *Tier 1 (Indigent/Informal)*

Families identified in local poverty registries, solo parents making less than minimum wage, and informal laborers shall access the facility entirely free of charge, inclusive of basic supplemental nutrition.

b. *Tier 2 (Low-to-Middle Income)*

Parents earning within standard regional minimum wage brackets shall contribute a heavily subsidized, standardized nominal monthly maintenance fee.

c. *Tier 3 (Upper-Middle Income)*

Parents seeking localized care who fall into higher tax brackets shall pay regulated, competitive rates. All funds collected through this tier must be directly ring-fenced for the maintenance and ingredient funding of the facility itself.

SEC 9. *Corporate Workplace Integration and Tax Incentives.* – To catalyze public-private synergy, any private corporation, commercial economic zone, or industrial plant that builds and operates an accredited, on-site, non-profit child-minding center for its workforce, or fully co-funds a municipal facility, shall be granted an additional tax deduction from its taxable gross income equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of the entire verified capital expenditure and operational maintenance cost of said facility within the taxable year.

SEC 10. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount necessary for the immediate establishment, retrofitting of buildings, and baseline staff hiring shall be charged against the unallocated savings of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the local government's internal development funds.

Thereafter, the funds required for continuous personnel compensation and facility upkeep shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

All local government units are mandated to allocate at least one and a half percent (1.5%) of their National Tax Allotment (NTA) exclusively toward the expansion, operational upkeep, and nutritional inventory of their localized CMF networks.

SEC 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Health (DOH), and representatives from the League of Cities and League of Municipalities of the Philippines shall convene and promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,