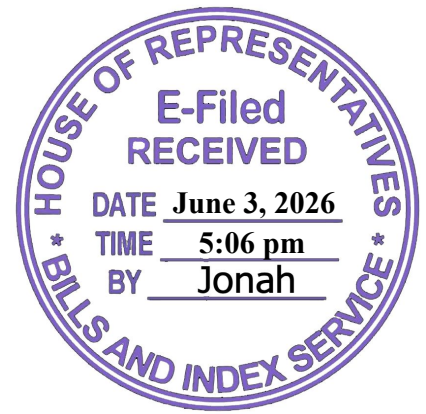


1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Batasan Hills, Quezon City

4
5
6 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
7 First Regular Session
8

9
10 **HOUSE BILL No. 9748**
11



12 -----
13 Introduced by
14 **ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO,**
15 **Gabriela Women's Party Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO,**
16 **and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO**
17 -----

18
19 **AN ACT**
20 **GRANTING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO TRIPLETS, QUADRUPLETS**
21 **AND OTHER HIGHER ORDER MULTIPLE BIRTHS, APPROPRIATING**
22 **FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
23

24
25 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**
26

27
28 Mothers diagnosed to have multiple pregnancies experience mixed happiness
29 and trepidation. The mothers and fathers are often unsure of their capacity to sustain
30 the family. Relative to single pregnancy, parents are confronted with higher medical
31 expenses due to extended hospital confinement, frequent hospital visits for prenatal,
32 delivery and postnatal check-ups, hospital obstetrical care and postnatal care.
33 Furthermore, many babies born in the set (i.e. triplets, etc.) have lower birth weight and
34 have increased possibility of confinement to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).
35 Almost half of all multiple births are premature.
36

37 There are cases of deaths of one or more babies and even of mothers resulting
38 from complications during pregnancy or at childbirth. This situation then becomes
39 doubly devastating for the family, psychologically and financially.
40

41 After birth, extra care and attention are needed by these babies and their mothers
42 more than what the single childbirths require. Thus, there is a need to extend both
43 maternity and paternity leave benefits to help the children and the parents of their
44 situation.
45

46 Children of multiple births also mean additional financial burden to the parents—

1 doubling or tripling the expenses for every child as they grow older, and more so if they
2 have disabilities. As with most multiple birth incidents, the preparation of the parents
3 having to raise more children than what was expected is an issue that calls upon the
4 government to be concerned about, especially to those from among poor and middle
5 class families.

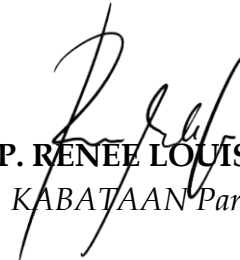
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7 This Bill seeks to provide assistance to the parents of triplets, quadruplets and
8 higher order multiple births who are facing the problem of raising several children all
9 at the same time and who are not economically prepared for such a situation. Under
10 this measure, the following will be given as mandatory government support to the
11 families within the first and fifth income decile:

- 12
13 1. Free prenatal, delivery and postnatal care services;
14 2. Funeral expenses in case of death of one or more of the babies and/or their
15 mother;
16 3. Extended paternity and maternity leaves for parents; and
17 4. Health and nutrition and educational support.
18

19 This measure was first filed by Bayan Muna Party-List Rep. Neri Colmenares
20 during the 15th Congress as House Bill 4789. The Makabayan Bloc refiled this measure
21 in the succeeding Congresses. The immediate approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.
22
23


REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list


REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Gabriela Women's Party


REP. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
KABATAAN Party-list

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24
25 **Section 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “***Multiple Births Support***
26 ***Law***”.

27
28 **Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – Section 11 of Art. XIII of the 1987 Philippine
29 Constitution states that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach
30 to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other
31 social services available to all people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the
32 needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State
33 shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.
34

35 **Section 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act:
36

- 37 a. *Higher order multiples* – refer to triplets (3 babies), quadruplets (4 babies),
38 quintuplets (5 babies) or even more babies.
39 b. *Childbirth expenses* – refer to expenses incurred during pregnancy, at
40 delivery and in the early postnatal period, including hospital, medical and
41 surgical expenses and professional fees of attending physician/s, in all public
42 hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services.
43 c. *Extended Paternal and Maternal Leave Benefits* – refer to additional seven
44 (7) days and thirty (30) days granted to the employed father and mother of
45 the high order multiples, respectively, in the public and private sectors. These
46 are additional days to what is mandated under the Labor Code of the

Philippines, as amended, and the Republic Act 11199, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 2018.

- d. *Income Decile* - refers to the national income decile as defined by the Philippine Statistics Authority in its Family Income and Expenditure Survey.
- e. *Maternal Death* – refers to death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.
- f. *Medical Services* – refer to hospital services, professional services of physicians and other healthcare professionals, and diagnostics and laboratory tests that are necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury;
- g. *Multiple Birth Loss/es* – refer to the death of any of the higher order multiples through miscarriage, stillbirth and early infant deaths.

Section 4. Coverage. – All Filipino families within the first and fifth income decile shall be entitled to the benefits under this Act.

Section 5. Government Support to Families with Higher Multiple Births. – Parents of higher order multiples shall be entitled to the following assistance:

- a. Free childbirth expenses;
- b. Free funeral expenses in case of maternal death and/or multiple birth loss/es;
- c. Extended paternity and maternity leave benefits;
- d. Monthly government support:
 - 1. Health and nutrition support per child shall be equivalent to the prevailing daily minimum wage.
 - 2. Educational support per child shall be equivalent to one half of the prevailing daily minimum wage.

Provided, That the government support shall be provided until the child/ren reach/es legal age. Provided further, That in case the child has physical or mental disability, the government support may be extended depending on the degree and type of disability.

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Health and the Department of Labor and Employment shall jointly issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Section 7. Appropriations. – The amount of Fifty million pesos (₱50,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 8. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by

1 such declaration.

2
3 **Section 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
4 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
5 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended
6 accordingly.

7
8 **Section 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
9 in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

10
11
12 *Approved,*