

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. **10164**



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
MANDATING THE PROVISION OF CHILD-FRIENDLY FACILITIES IN
EVERY DINE-IN RESTAURANT IN THE COUNTRY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State provides that it shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

The country additionally is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, signifying its commitment to upholding the rights and welfare of children, including their right to be nurtured in an environment that fosters understanding, tolerance, and peace and enables growth and development.

In recognition of the importance of ensuring that children dining out with their families have access to child-friendly spaces that cater to their needs as well as promote a positive and enjoyable atmosphere for all patrons, this bill proposes that food establishments such as restaurants, cafes, diners, and similar establishments must provide child-friendly facilities as a part of their establishments.

Specifically, the proposed “Child-friendly Restaurants Act” mandates proportional child-friendly seating in food establishments and baby-changing facilities in restrooms.

By mandating the provision of child-friendly facilities in food establishments, this legislation encourages businesses to prioritize their

youngest patrons and support the well-being of dining parents and families with young children, thereby creating inclusive and welcoming environments while helping the food establishments boost their economy.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Child-Friendly Restaurants Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes that all Filipinos are entitled to access to convenient facilities that will enable them to properly undertake their childcare responsibilities. Towards this end, this State shall ensure that these facilities are sanitary, safe, readily available and accessible for all persons, and shall specialize seating for infants and children.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Council on Disability Affairs shall, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. Provision of Child-friendly Seating. – Food service establishments that allow dine-in are mandated, at all times, to have child-friendly seating equipment for patrons who have at least one (1) early-stage child present with them at the time that they procure the food or the services of the establishment.

SECTION 5. *Proportion of Child-friendly seating to Common Seating-* Food service establishments shall have at least ten percent child-friendly seats out of the total common seats available.

SECTION 6. *Access to Diaper-Changing Stations in the Restrooms-* All major food establishments shall have at least one (1) safe, sanitary, and convenient baby diaper-changing station that is accessible to restrooms either exclusively used by men or women or a baby-diaper changing station that is accessible to both men and women; Provided, that a diaper-changing station shall be available on each floor occupied by the food establishment.

SECTION 7. *Exceptions.* Section 6 of this Act shall not apply to a restaurant with a seating capacity of at least 50 people if there is a centrally located facility with a baby-diaper changing station located within 300 feet of the entrance to the restaurant.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH) and other relevant stakeholders shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Transition Period.* All covered food service establishments existing at the time of the approval of this Act shall have a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act to comply with the provisions hereof.

SECTION 10. *Penalties.* A major food service establishment that fails to comply with any provisions of this Act shall be liable for a fine of one hundred pesos (Php 100) for every day of violation.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.*- If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,