CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES FIFTEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## H. No. 3088

## BY REPRESENTATIVES BONDOC, BONOAN-DAVID AND HERRERA-DY

## AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF FAMILY PLANNING AND RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, 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 "Family
 Support for Breastfeeding Act".

3 SEC. 2. Declaration of Principles and State Policies. – The State 4 shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health 5 consciousness among them. The State likewise recognizes the sanctity of 6 family as a basic autonomous social institution.

7 The State upholds that preparation for responsible parenthood should 8 start even prior to the celebration of marriage so as to allow prospective 9 husband and wife ample time to consider their options and priorities. Towards 10 this end, a comprehensive and effective responsible parenthood program 11 should also include promotion of breastfeeding and proper infant nutrition as an inherent component of each child's right to enjoy, and each parent's
 responsibility to provide, the highest attainable standard of health.

3 Current government efforts and programs aimed towards promoting 4 breastfeeding as an optimal and cost-effective means of infant and young child 5 nutrition should be formally incorporated into the family planning and 6 responsible parenthood promotion and dissemination mechanism set forth in 7 Presidential Decree No. 965.

8 SEC. 3. *Mandate.* – The Office of Family Planning in every city and 9 municipality is hereby mandated to give instructions and information not only 10 pertaining to family planning and responsible parenthood but also to extend the 11 same to cover proper topics relative to breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

12 The city or municipal health officer shall continue to be assisted by the 13 city or rural health nurse, members of the city or rural health unit, and such 14 other personnel from different agencies of the government involved in efforts 15 towards promotion of responsible parenthood.

16 SEC. 4. Certificate of Compliance. – Pursuant to Section 3 of 17 Presidential Decree No. 965, no marriage license shall be issued by the Local 18 Civil Registrar unless the applicants present a Certificate of Compliance issued 19 by the Family Planning Officer certifying that they had duly received 20 comprehensive instructions and information on family planning, responsible 21 parenthood, breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

22 The instructions and information shall be given, and the certificate of 23 compliance shall be issued, free of charge.

SEC. 5. Assistance of Government Agencies. – Agencies of the government shall assist the Family Planning Offices in order to further promote and support family planning and responsible parenthood. Towards this end, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Population Commission shall furnish each Family Planning Office with the

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proper information and resources on current studies and research related to family planning, responsible parenthood, breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

3 SEC. 6. Assistance from the Private Sector. – The Family Planning 4 Office may request volunteer doctors, nurses or other duly licensed health 5 professionals or healthcare workers to assist in giving the instructions and 6 information mandated by this Act: *Provided*, That in no event shall anyone 7 promote, endorse, market or do any act tending to promote or endorse any 8 commercially-produced and/or commercially-sold product or any paid medical, 9 health or wellness service.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. - The provisions of this Act are hereby
 deemed distinct and separable from each other. If any provision hereof be
 declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall
 not affect the other provisions which shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – Sections 2 and 3 of Presidential Decree No. 965 are hereby amended accordingly. All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect ninety (90)
19 days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general
20 circulation.

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Approved,

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