



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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4590



Introduced by Representatives Ria Christina G. Fariñas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide young women's kit to female pupils and students in public schools.

One salient characteristic that distinguishes men and women is menstruation, menses or menstrual period. It is the regular discharge of blood and mucosal tissue from the inner lining of the uterus through the female genital organ. The first menstruation or menarche usually begins between 12 and 15 years of age, but may occasionally start at 8 years of age.

Menstruation is vital in procreation because it prepares the bodies of women for reproduction. This monthly menstrual period causes discomfort to women. Its symptoms and common signs include acne, tender breast, bloating, feeling tired, irritability and mood changes.

The unexpected arrival of the first menstruation or menarche causes confusion and panic among the inexperienced teenagers. Due to the sudden start of menstruation, these young women do not have immediate access to necessary menstruation items like sanitary napkins. Most of the time, they experience their first menstruation when they are within the premises of the school and are not allowed to go out for security purposes.

To remedy the needs of female students to cope with the dilemma brought about by the start of their menstrual periods while in school, the Department of Education issued DepEd Order No. 10, s. 2016 entitled "Policy and Guidelines for the Comprehensive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools (WINS) Program which ensures a

system and support mechanisms for effective menstrual hygiene management, requires training of teachers, heads of schools, facilities coordinators to acquire a higher awareness of correct hygiene and sanitation practices, and develop positive health behavior.

The Department of Health shall be the lead agency in the identification of the contents of the Young Women's Kit and in coordination with the DepEd, PCW and NWC, create and develop materials to educate students, parents, guardian, and school personnel.

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



RIA CHRISTINA G. FARIÑAS



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1 **AN ACT**
2 **PROVIDING YOUNG WOMEN'S KIT TO FEMALE STUDENTS**
3 **IN ALL PUBLIC ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE**
4 **PHILIPPINES**
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*
7 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
8

9 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Young*
10 *Women's Kit Act.*”

11 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to
12 recognize the role of women in nation-building, and to adopt an
13 integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which
14 shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services
15 available to all the people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State
16 shall provide hygiene kits for the menstrual needs of female students in
17 public schools and shall implement a complementary program that shall

1 promote awareness to address the stigma and misconceptions attached to
2 menstruation, and foster greater understanding of reproductive health.

3 SEC. 3. *Young Women's Kit Program.* – This Act hereby
4 establishes the Young Women's Kit Program which will provide free
5 young women's kits to female pupils and students of elementary and
6 secondary public schools and implement the awareness campaign
7 designed to educate students, parents, guardians, and school personnel on
8 the menstrual process, and the stigma, misconception, and gender norms
9 attached to it.

10 *Young women's kit* shall refer to a menstrual kit in a compact
11 package that shall contain commonly used items and medicine for
12 menstrual health and hygiene such as, but not limited to, sanitary napkins,
13 tampons, pantyliners, disinfectant, pain reliever, disposable underwear.

14 SEC. 5. *Objectives of the Program.* – The program shall have the
15 following objectives:

16 a) Provide free Young Women's Kit to female pupils and
17 students of public schools;

18 b) Implement an awareness program designed to address the
19 stigma, misconceptions, and gender norms surrounding menstruation, and
20 reproductive health; and

1 c) Maintain an academic environment where the onset of
2 menstruation or menarche does not hinder or limit the social, cultural, and
3 academic participation of female pupils and students.

4 SEC. 6. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Department of Education
5 (DepEd), in coordination with the Philippine Commission on Women
6 (PCW), National Youth Commission (NYC), and the Department of
7 Health (DOH) shall lead in the implementation of the *Program*.

8 The DepEd shall coordinate compliance of all elementary and
9 secondary public schools with the provisions of the Young Women's Kit
10 Program, and in the implementation of educational and awareness
11 programs on the subject of menstruation.

12 The Department of Health shall be the lead agency in the
13 identification of the contents of the Young Women's Kit and in the
14 determination of instruction materials to educate the students, parents,
15 guardians, and school personnel of public schools. The development of
16 the educational materials shall be done in coordination with the DepEd,
17 NYC, and the PCW.

18 The NYC shall ensure the participation of youth organizations in
19 public schools, including their respective student councils.

1 **SEC. 7. *Roles and Responsibilities of Public Schools.*** – All public
2 elementary and secondary schools shall have the following roles and
3 responsibilities:

4 a) Implement the program in coordination with the
5 aforementioned agencies tasked to implement this Act;

6 b) Submit a report and documentation on the implementation of
7 the program to the Department of Education;

8 c) Ensure and promote the participation of parents, guardians,
9 and school personnel especially for educational and awareness campaigns
10 on the menstrual experience;

11 d) Ensure and promote proper waste disposal of materials used
12 in conjunction with the implementation of the program;

13 e) Ensure and promote the involvement of student councils in
14 the implementation of the program, such as but not limited to, developing
15 complementary programs or assuming roles in the oversight and
16 assessment of the program's implementation in the campus.

17 **SEC 8. *Scope of Implementation.*** – All female students from Grade
18 7 to 12, including students in earlier grade levels who may experience the
19 onset menstruation or menarche shall be provided by the State with a Young
20 Women's Kit within the first month of the academic calendar of public
21 academic institutions: *Provided*, That the State shall ensure ample supply

1 of Young Women's Kit in public schools for female pupils who may
2 experience menstruation or menarche prior to Grade 7; *Provided further,*
3 That the scope of implementation under this Act may be adjusted upon
4 the advice of the DOH in case of any change in the average age for
5 menarche among female pupils and students.

6 The State, through its agencies, shall endeavor the continued and
7 expanded implementation of this program, and support the monthly needs
8 and replenishment of the Young Women's Kit through agency
9 appropriation, or in partnerships with other potential funding institutions.

10 **SEC 9. *Implementation in Private Schools.*** – Private schools are
11 hereby encouraged to implement and fund the program within their
12 respective campuses with the guidance of the implementing agencies.
13 Private schools implementing this program are likewise encouraged to
14 report and document the implementation and share effective practices and
15 programs that may benefit public and private schools.

16 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial
17 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the budgets of the
18 DepEd, PCW, DOH, and NYC. Thereafter, such sums necessary for the
19 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
20 General Appropriations Act.

1 SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department
2 of Education, in coordination with the Philippine Commission on Women
3 (PCW), National Youth Commission (NYC), and the Department of
4 Health (DOH), in consultation with other government agencies shall
5 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days
6 from the effectivity of this Act.

7 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of existing laws,
8 presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction,
9 administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent
10 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
11 accordingly.

12 SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is
13 declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and
14 effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

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

18 Approved,