

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 761

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under the Constitution, the State must protect and promote the right to health of the people, with a particular emphasis toward mothers and children. Reproductive health continues to be a vital part of a holistic drive toward national health, and the presence of individuals with medical skill and training by the side of a mother in labor can go a long way toward reducing infant and maternal deaths.

This bill – based on House Bill No. 2481 of the 16th Congress filed by Rep. Marcelino “Marcy” R. Teodoro, with minor revisions to Sec. 4 -- charges the Barangay Captain to ensure that proper care and preparations are made in order to increase the chances that any birth that occurs in the Philippines will take place in the presence of a skilled birth attendant.



EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY – VILLAR
Representative, DIWA Party-list

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**AN ACT TO GUARANTEE ACCESS TO A BIRTH ATTENDANT AT THE TIME OF
CHILDBIRTH AND IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Birth Attendant Act."

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. - For the purposes of this Act, the term:

- a) "Maternal death/mortality" means the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days from the termination of pregnancy, regardless of the site or duration of pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.
- b) "Skilled birth attendant" means a nurse, midwife, doctor or other practitioner with professional training in obstetric care.
- c) "Referral system" means a mechanism by which the local government unit ensures that the nearest hospital with adequate emergency obstetric care will accept the pregnant woman in the event that complications arise from childbirth or if there is a need for other emergency procedures.

SECTION 4. Responsibilities of the Barangay Chairman. - It shall be the duty of the Barangay Chairman to ensure that every pregnant woman has access to a skilled birth attendant at the time of childbirth. The Barangay Chairman must carry out the following tasks, directly or through appointed representatives:

- a) Create and maintain a master list of pregnant women in the barangay. Each pregnant woman must be assisted in drawing up a birth plan which includes

pertinent information such as the mother's general state of health, expected due date or date of delivery, and possible blood donors. This master list must be updated at least every two months.

- b) Ensure that there will be access to the services of a skilled birth attendant.
- c) Place transportation facilities on call upon notification that the pregnant mother has gone into labor.
- d) Communicate with the nearest hospital or lying-in clinic that the woman is in labor. Prior to this, a referral system or mechanism must be in place.
- e) All barangay and municipal health workers shall be placed on standby alert. Only when the outcome of a safe birth transpires will all alert signals be lowered.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. —

- a) The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act of the year following the enactment of this law and every year thereafter.
- b) All local government units are likewise mandated to allot not less than five percent (5%) of their gender and development budget for programs, projects and activities aimed to support maternal health within their jurisdiction.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. — Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity or constitutionality of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,