Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 6561

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Representatives FERDINAND R. GAITE,
CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT

AN ACT
GRANTING MANDATORY GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
FOR TRIPLETs, QUADRUPLETS AND OTHER HIGHER ORDER MULTIPLE
BIRTHS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mothers diagnosed to have multiple pregnancies experience happiness mixed with trepidation
and unsure of their capacity to sustain the family. Related to this are the high expenses with
extended hospital confinement and frequent hospital visits during the prenatal, delivery and
postnatal check-ups including hospital obstetrical care - ultrasound scan, hospital visits, in-
patient stay, delivery and postnatal care including admittance of the multiple-birth babies to
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) after birth. Further, more babies born in the set (i.e.
triplets, etc.) means lower birth weight of each child and increased possibility of confinement to
NICU. Statistics also show that almost half of all multiple births are premature.

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

After birth, extra care and attention is needed by these babies and even of their mothers,
logically, more than single childbirths require. Thus, there is a need to extend not only maternity
leave benefits, but also the paternity leave benefits, for both parents to help the children adjust in
their predicament, and even the parents themselves as well.

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

This bill therefore seeks to assist parents of triplets, quadruplets and higher order multiple births
who are faced with the problem of raising several children all at the same time and are not
economically prepared for such a situation. Specifically, mandatory support for these families is
called for on:

1. All prenatal, delivery and postnatal care services
2. Funeral expenses in case of death of any one or more of the multiple births or their mothers;
3. Extended paternity and maternity leaves for parents;
4. Health and nutrition and educational support.

This bill was first filed by Bayan Muna PartyList in the 16th Congress. Thus, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Approved,

[Signature]

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

[Signature]

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist
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Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as “Multiple Births Support Law of 2020”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy – Section 11 of Art. XIII – Social Justice and Human Rights,
of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

Section 11. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services
available to all people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the
underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide
free medical care to parturient.

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

a. Higher order multiples - refer to triplets (3 babies), quadruplets (4 babies), quintuplets (5
babies) or even more babies. Higher order multiples can be any combination of the
two basic twin types – 1 pair of identical twins plus 1 fraternal twin, 2 sets of
fraternal twins, etc.
b. Childbirth – includes both labor (the process of birth) and delivery (the birth itself); it
refers to the entire process as an infant makes its way from the womb down the birth
 canal to the outside world.
c. Childbirth expenses – refer to expenses incurred during pregnancy, at delivery and in
the early postnatal period, including hospital, medical and surgical expenses. This
also includes professional fees of attending physician/s in all public and private
hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services;
d. Child Benefit - is a payment defined by Section 4.4 of this Act, made to all parents of
multiples provided that their joint annual incomes do not exceed P225,000 which is
the 5th income decile under the Total Family Income and Expenditures and Savings
at Current Prices for 2009. Said income shall adjust according to succeeding changes
in the FIES values by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The monthly support
shall continue until the child/children reach/es 18 unless he/she/they have physical
or mental disability.
e. Extended Paternal and Maternal Leave Benefits - refer to extra seven (7) days and thirty
(30) days granted for the employed father and mother of the multiples, respectively,
in the public and private sectors. These are additional days to what is mandated by
Article 133 of the Labor Code and Section 14-A of “Social Security Act of 1997”
Republic Act No. 8282).

f. 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.

g. Medical Services - refer to hospital services, professional services of physicians and
other health care professionals and diagnostics and laboratory tests that are necessary
for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury;

h. Multiple Birth Loss/es – refer to loss of life (or death) of any of the higher order
multiples through miscarriage, stillbirth and early infant deaths.


Parents of higher order multiples shall be entitled to the following assistance free of charge:

Section 4.1 Medical check-ups, surgery/ies, laboratory and other tests incidental to the
prenatal, delivery and postnatal care of all mothers and multiples in all
public hospitals and medical institutions.

Section 4.2 All funeral expenses in case of death or loss of any one of the higher order
multiples or the mother shall be shouldered by the government.

Section 4.3. Paid paternity and maternity leave benefits as defined by Section 3e.

Section 4.4. The mandatory monthly support per child shall be:

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.

Support shall be availed of until legal age.

In case the child has physical or mental disability, support may be lengthened
depending on the degree and type of disability.

Section 4.5. Exclusion from Coverage. Families of multiples earning an annual income
exceeding that of the 5th income decile under the Total FIES at current prices shall be
excluded from government support stated above.

Section 5. Implementing Agencies. The Department of Social Welfare (DSWD) with the
Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall
jointly issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Section 6. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be
included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law. An
initial amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000) shall be allocated for the first year of its
implementation.

Section 7. 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 such
declaration.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. Any provision of law or regulations inconsistent herewith is
hereby repealed, revoked or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,