

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY
Cotabato City

SECOND PARLIAMENT
Second Regular Session

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
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Name: DARIN, CHAYANAS Signature: [Signature]
Date: MAY 25 2023 Time: 11:02 AM

Parliament Bill No. 186

Introduced by
**MPs AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL, ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR.,
ATTY. SITTIE FAHANIE S. UY-OYOD, HASHEMI N. DILANGALEN, M.D.,
HAMID U. MALIK**
Co-authored by
**MPs ATTY. LAISA M. ALAMIA, ENGR. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN,
ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLOD TO,
RASUL E. ISMAEL**

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREASTFEEDING
FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE
ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE BANGSAMORO REGION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Breastfeeding has been shown not just to increase an infant's chances of survival, but it also protects them from common diseases. Breastfed children also perform better on intelligence tests and are less likely to be overweight later in life.

Many mothers return to work after giving birth, and being able to continue breastfeeding while at work can be challenging. Providing breastfeeding facilities in offices and establishments can help support working mothers to continue breastfeeding, and help improve employee morale and job satisfaction.

Given the benefits derived from breastfeeding, the measure seeks to mandate the regional government to promote its practice and create an enabling environment to encourage mothers to continue breastfeeding and help raise productive citizens. The measure may include the establishment of breastfeeding areas in all government and private offices and establishments within the BARMM, counseling, promotion of maternity protection, and monitoring of breastfeeding policies and practices.

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

AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL

Member of the Parliament
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Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
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BE IT ENACTED by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in Parliament assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Bangsamoro Breastfeeding Facilities Act of 2023.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the Bangsamoro Government to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding as the normal and optimal way of feeding infants. In line with this policy, it is necessary to establish breastfeeding facilities in government and private establishments to enable mothers to breastfeed or express milk for their infants in a comfortable and safe environment.

SEC. 3. Definitions. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a. *Breastfeeding Facility* - a private area or room in a government or private establishment that is designated and equipped for the purpose of breastfeeding or expressing milk for infants.

b. *Lactation Break* – a period of time granted to a breastfeeding mother to breastfeed or express milk for her infant.

c. *Express Milk* – to release milk from the breast using a breast pump or by hand.

SEC. 4. Establishment of Breastfeeding Facilities. – All government and private establishments in the Bangsamoro region shall provide a private area or room designated and equipped for the purpose of breastfeeding or expressing milk for infants. These facilities shall be easily accessible and conveniently located within the premises of the establishment. Breastfeeding facilities shall be equipped with comfortable seating, electrical outlets, a table or other flat surface, and a sink for washing hands and equipment.

SEC. 5. Lactation Breaks. – All employers shall provide lactation breaks to their breastfeeding employees. These breaks shall be in addition to the regular rest periods provided for by law, and shall be no less than thirty (30) minutes in total for every four-hour work period. The employees shall not be penalized or discriminated against in any way for taking such break.

SEC. 6. Penalties. – Any government official or employee, or private establishment that violates any provision of this Act shall be subject to a fine not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP 10,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP 50,000.00) for each violation.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Ministry of Health, in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Employment, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All regional laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the region.

Approved,

Author/s:


AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Member of the Parliament

Certified correct:

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General

Attested by:

ATTY. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG

Speaker