

The Act for Partial Revision of the Act for Measures to Support the Development of the Next-Generation Children (Act No. 28 of 2014) (Overview)

With the aim of fostering healthy growth of children who forge the next-generation society and, to this end, creating childrearing-friendly environment in workplace and communities, necessary measures will be taken, including extending the valid period of the Act for Measures to Support the Development of the Next-Generation Children, adopting special measures concerning obligations to formulate and notify action plans of general business operators, expanding support for single-mother and single-father families, and revising adjusted benefit payments between childrearing allowances and pensions.

Major amended items

1. Promotion and reinforcement of measures to support the development of the next-generation children (Partial Revision of the Act for Measures to Support the Development of the Next-Generation Children)

(Extension of the valid period)

① The valid period of the Act will be extended for 10 years until March 31, 2025.

(Establishment of a new certification (special certification) system)

② For business operators certified by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare for formulating and implementing appropriate action plans concerning the creation of employment environment favorable to raising children and whose status of the implementation of measures to support the development of the next-generation children is especially outstanding,

- A new certification (special certification) system is established, whereby the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare authorizes such business operators; and
- The specially certified business operators are obliged to announce their implementation status of the said measures in place of their obligation to formulate and notify action plans of general business operators. etc.

2. Improvement of measures to support single-parent families (Partial amendment of the Act for the Welfare of Fatherless Families and Widows and the Childrearing Allowance Act)

(Expansion of support for single-mother families)

① Expand and reinforce support for single-mother households, through prefectures' active and planned implementation of support measures for single-mother homes, preparation of regulations concerning relevant organizations' coordination in the communities, and prohibition of public imposition on the allowance for promotion of high-level vocational training (※).

※ Allowance for supporting single-mothers' living expense during a period when they receive training at training agencies to acquire qualifications that would enhance their prospects for finding employment.

(Expansion of support for single-father families)

② In addition to ①, expand support for single-father households, including the establishment of the Loan System for Fathers with Dependent Children (a system to provide single-father families with school education, living support, and other loans), as well as amend the name of the Act to the "Act for the Welfare of Fatherless and Motherless Families and Widows."

(Revision of adjustment in multiple benefit payments between childrearing allowances and pension)

③ For public pension benefit recipients, etc. who are ineligible for childrearing allowances, the allowances will be partially paid in accordance with the amounts of public pensions and other benefits they are receiving.

【Dates of enforcement】

1. will come into effect on April 1, 2015 (April 23, 2014 for ①)

2. will come into effect on October 1, 2014 (December 1, 2014 for ③)