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## Vietnam to allow surrogacy from 2015

HANOI, June 20 (Xinhua) -- Surrogacy for humanitarian purposes will be allowed in Vietnam from 2015, according to a newly approved law bill.

The amended Marriage and Family Law was passed at the ongoing meeting of Vietnam's National Assembly on Thursday in Vietnam's capital Hanoi with 79.52 percent of approval, reported the website of the Vietnamese government.

Due to the existence of different opinions among representatives, a separate voting was conducted for the content relating surrogacy with over 59 percent of agreement.

Accordingly, the surrogate pregnancy for humanitarian purposes must be based on a voluntary basis of relevant parties, clarifying clearly in notarized writing document, and not be contrary to other provisions relating to birth by assisted reproductive technology.

Intended parents must have a verification of competent medical organizations that medical issues make pregnancy not possible even by assisted reproductive technology, and the couple has no child.

Surrogate mother must be relative of the intended parents, which is for prevention of commercialization of surrogacy. Surrogate mother is the one who used to give birth and is allowed to carry surrogacy once.

The amended Marriage and Family Law will take effect on January 1, 2015.

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