

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 SEP 28 P1:45

SENATE  
S. No. **2546**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states that:

"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

The *Philippine Daily Inquirer* recently reported about a new health menace: Superbugs.<sup>1</sup> The Superbug was identified as the New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1 (NDM-1), a unique genetic mechanism identified in India, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom. Laboratory tests showed that this kind of germs were not killed by carbapenems, a group of antibiotics often reserved as a last resort for emergency treatment for multi-drug resistant bugs.<sup>2</sup>

Scientists have found that with more people traveling to find less costly medical treatments, particularly for procedures such as cosmetic surgery, the new superbug could soon spread across the globe. Because of medical tourism and international travel in general, resistance to these types of bacteria has the potential to spread around the world very quickly.<sup>3</sup>

Proper reporting and quarantine procedures must be established not only to contain but also to prevent the entry of this deadly superbug that may cause the next global pandemic.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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<sup>1</sup> September 15, 2010 issue.

<sup>2</sup> <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20100811-286154/New-superbugs-spreading-from-South-Asiastudy>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67A0YU20100811>

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1 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO REPORT CASES  
2 OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANT INFECTIONS

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

3 SECTION 1. *Anti-Microbial Resistant Infections; Duty to Report.* – (A) Upon  
4 considering that the infection of a patient in a hospital, nursing home, or other health care  
5 facility is resisting antimicrobial treatment, the prescribing physician shall immediately  
6 arrange for culturing and laboratory testing of such infection, and for apprising the facility's  
7 administrator and its director of nursing of the case.

8 (B) Upon issuing its findings, the laboratory shall send a copy thereof to the Department  
9 of Health.

10 SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations; Standard Operating Procedure.* –  
11 The Secretary of Health shall draft the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, including  
12 the standard operating procedure to be followed by hospitals, nursing homes, and other health  
13 care facilities upon discovery of antimicrobial resistant cases.

14 SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
15 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
16 valid and subsisting.

17 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
18 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
19 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

1           SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,