

9 JUL 23 PM 48

SENATE
S.B. No. **3337**

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Problem gambling is a growing public health concern. It is characterized by increasing preoccupation with and loss of control over gambling, restlessness and irritability when attempting to stop gambling, and the continued gambling despite serious negative consequences.

Problem gamblers have high rates of co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders such as smoking, alcohol use and abuse, drug use and abuse, depression and suicidal behavior. A study by the National Research Council in 1999 found that 25-50% of the spouses of compulsive gamblers have been abused. Another survey of 144 spouses of compulsive gamblers found that 50% were physically and verbally abused by their spouse and 12% had attempted suicide (Bland, Newman, Orn and Stebelski, 1993). Emergency room statistics also show that the odds ratio of intimate partner violence increased 10.5 times when the partner was a problem gambler (Muelleman, Denotter, Wadman Tran & Anderson, 2002). In Nebraska, a study found that problem gambling is as much a risk for domestic violence as alcohol abuse.

This bill seeks to lessen the social impact of problem gambling by providing counseling support and information dissemination on this condition and its treatment.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

9 JUL 23 PM 48

SENATE
S.B. No. **3337**

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT PROVIDING
2 A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE AFFLICTED
3 WITH COMPULSIVE GAMBLING DISORDER

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Comprehensive Problem
5 Gambling Act of 2009.”

6 SECTION. 2. *Raising Public Awareness.* – The Secretary of Health shall carry out a
7 national campaign to increase knowledge and raise awareness with respect to problem gambling
8 issues within the general public, including supporting and augmenting existing national
9 campaigns and the production and placement of public service announcements.

10 SECTION 3. *Research.* – The Secretary shall establish and implement a national
11 program of research on problem gambling.

12 SECTION 4. *Treatment.* – The evaluation and treatment of persons who have had their
13 lives significantly impacted by compulsive gambling disorder shall be carried out by counselors
14 whose services shall be available at all health centers.

15 SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary shall issue the
16 implementing rules and regulations for this Act and shall submit a report to Congress within two
17 (2) years from the passage of this law.

18 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any portion or provision of this
19 Act shall be declared unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected
20 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
2 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
3 modified accordingly.

4 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
5 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,