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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

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


Cancer is brought about by changes (mutations) in a cell's DNA -- its genetic "blueprint". Part of these changes may have been inherited from our parents, while others may be caused by outside exposures, which are often referred to as environmental factors. These factors may include a wide range of exposures, such as lifestyle factors, naturally occurring exposures, medical treatments, workplace and household exposures, and pollution.

Substances and exposures that can lead to cancer are referred to as *carcinogens*. Carcinogens do not cause cancer 100% of the time. Substances considered as carcinogens may have different levels of cancer-causing potential. Some may cause cancer only after prolonged, high levels of exposure. For any particular person, the risk of developing cancer depends on many factors, including how they are exposed to a carcinogen, the length and intensity of the exposure, and the person's genetic makeup. This bill seeks to inform consumers of the potential risk posed by the carcinogens found in consumer products.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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SENATE
S. B. No. **3364**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT CREATING A DATABASE OF
2 PRODUCTS CONTAINING PROBABLE CARCINOGENS

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Probable Carcinogen
4 Information Act of 2009.”

5 SECTION 2. *Definition of terms.* – As used in this Act, the term–

6 (A) “Carcinogen” refers to any substance or radiation that is directly involved in the
7 existence of cancer or in the increase of its spread;

8 (B) “Department” means the Department of Health;

9 SECTION 3. *Database of Carcinogens.* – The Department shall create a database of
10 known and probable carcinogens which shall be available at all health centers and at their
11 website. There shall also be a database of products that contain these carcinogens. A product
12 may be delisted only if the manufacturers prove that they have taken the carcinogen out of their
13 production process.

14 SECTION 4. *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.

1 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
3 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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