

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
S. No. 1562

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution Article 13, Section 12 mandates the State to undertake appropriate health manpower development and research responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

Breasts implants have been widely suspected to increase the risk of a range of problems, including cancer, connective tissue disease, implant rupture, and hematoma. Despite reports and conjectures showing adverse health impacts of breast implants, there are still women who consider breast implant surgery.

Women need complete and accurate information about the potential health risks and advantages of breast implants, in order to know what to expect if they decide to undergo implant surgery.

This bill seeks to promote research to identify and evaluate the health effects of breast implants and to ensure that women and their doctors receive accurate information about such implants.*

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

1 (A) If deemed to be scientifically appropriate, include multidisciplinary, clinical, case-
2 controlled study of women with breast implants;

3 (B) Involve women who have had such implants in place for at least eight (8) years,
4 focusing on typical disease presentation, neurological dysfunction, and immune system
5 irregularities; and

6 (C) Evaluate to what extent if any, their health differs from a woman who has or has
7 not had breast implant.

8 SECTION 5. *Committee on Breast Implants Research.* – To assist the Secretary in
9 receiving accurate and complete information about the risks of breast implants, there shall be
10 established a committee, to be known as the Committee on Breast Implants Research, to ensure
11 the strategic management, communication, and oversight of the policy formation, research, and
12 activities of the government regarding breast implants.

13 SECTION 6. *Composition.* – The Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members:

14 (A) Two (2) representatives from the Department of Health;

15 (B) Four (4) physicians with established credentials in the area of breast implants; and

16 (C) One (1) representative from a non-government organization advocating women's
17 health.

18 The Secretary shall act as chair of the Committee. He or she shall convene the meetings
19 of the Committee, not less than twice each year.

20 SECTION 7. *Meetings.* – The meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public, and
21 public witnesses shall be given the opportunity to speak and make presentations at such
22 meetings.

23 SECTION 8. *Term.* – Members shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of three (3)
24 years. Of those first appointed, three (3) members shall serve for the three (3) years, three (3)
25 members for two (2) years, and the last three (3) members for one (1) year.

1 Any vacancy in the membership of the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as
2 the original appointment.

3 Any member of the Committee may be removed for cause in accordance with procedures
4 established by the Committee.

5 SECTION 9. *Functions.* – The Committee shall have the following functions:

6 (A) Advice the Secretary on appropriate research activities to be undertaken by the
7 Committee with respect to research on the health impacts of breast implants;

8 (B) Report to the Secretary on such research;

9 (C) Provide recommendations to the Secretary regarding activities of the Committee;

10 (D) Prepare a report regarding the activities of the Committee; and

11 (E) Ensure that materials concerning breast implants provided by the Department are
12 available, up to date, and responsive to the problems with breast implants, and timely aggregate
13 data concerning such reports shall be made available to the public upon request and consistent
14 with existing confidentiality standards.

15 SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
16 is necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National treasury. Thereafter, the
17 amount necessary for the continuation of the research shall be included in the annual
18 appropriation of the Department of Health.

19 SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
21 valid and subsisting.

22 SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
23 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
24 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

1 SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,