

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JAN 25 P5 00

SENATE
S. No. 3096

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
PENALIZING VIOLATIONS OF QUARANTINE ORDERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

Our experience with the AH1N1 virus spotlights how the quarantine orders of the Department of Health (DOH) were considered as mere "suggestions", to be followed only when it is convenient for one to do so. The DOH's advice for people who went on foreign trips to undergo self-quarantine was largely ignored. It is a good thing that the virus turned out to be not lethal in most cases. We may not be as unfortunate the next time a global pandemic occurs.

With this bill, we will put teeth in our medical and public health authorities' orders and issuances. Quarantine orders spell the difference between life and death of millions of people. We must not make this public health mistake twice.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was first filed during the Fourteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.



16 JAN 25 1978 5:00

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

1 SECTION 1. *Quarantine Violations.* - The following are considered acts
2 constituting violation of quarantine orders:

3 A. Any person or persons who shall leave any pesthouse, or isolation hospital, or
4 quarantined house or place without the consent of the health officer having
5 jurisdiction;

6 B. Any person or persons who evades or breaks quarantine orders of the proper
7 health authorities;

8 C. Any person or persons who knowingly conceals a case of contagious,
9 infectious, or communicable disease;

10 D. Any person or persons who removes, destroys, obstructs from view, or tears
11 down any quarantine card, cloth or notice posted by the attending physician or
12 by the health officer, or by direction of a proper health officer.

13 SECTION 2. *Penalties.* - Any violation of Section 1 of this Act shall be
14 punishable by a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000) and/or imprisonment of not less
15 than one day but not more than one (1) month. If the violation of quarantine orders results
16 in the infection of other persons, the penalty shall be One Hundred Thousand
17 (P100,000,000) and imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than 1

1 year. If the violation of quarantine orders results in the death of one of those infected, the
2 penalty shall be Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000,000) and imprisonment of not
3 less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years.

4 SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
5 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
6 provisions hereof.

7 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
8 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
9 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,

/at6Jan16