

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JAN 25 P5:16

SENATE
S. No. 3122

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
CREATING A DATABASE OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING
PROBABLE CARCINOGENS

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.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
78

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

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Probable Carcinogen
2 Information Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the term:

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

6 (B) “Department” means the Department of Health.

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

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

1 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
2 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
3 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,

/ml4Dec2015