



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

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SENATE
S. No. 3164

RECEIVED BY: J

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
REGULATING TERATOGENS

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.

A teratogen is an agent which can cause a birth defect. It is something in the environment that the mother may be exposed to during her pregnancy. It can be a prescribed medication, alcohol use, a street drug, or a disease that the mother has, which may increase the chance for the baby to be born with a birth defect. Birth defects are functional or structural abnormalities present at birth that cause mental or physical disability. Some of these birth defects may be fatal. Researchers have identified thousands of different birth defects. Currently, birth defects are the leading cause of death for infants during the first year of life.

It is estimated that 10% of all birth defects are caused by a prenatal exposure to teratogen. These exposures include, but are not limited to, medication or drug exposures, maternal infections and diseases, and environmental and occupational exposures such as ionizing radiation or environmental chemicals. Teratogen-caused birth defects are potentially preventable. Studies have shown that nearly 50% of pregnant women have been exposed to at least one medication during gestation. An additional study found that

of 200 individuals referred for genetic counseling for a teratogenic exposure, 52% were exposed to more than one potential teratogen.

This bill seeks to inform consumers of the potential risk posed by the teratogens found in consumer products or in the industries they may be exposed to.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
at

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

1 **SECTION 5. *Penalties.*** – The Department is empowered to establish and assess
2 penalties or fines against any person for violations of this Act or regulations adopted
3 under this Act. In no circumstance will any penalties or fines exceed P10,000.00 for each
4 day the permit holder remains in violation.

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

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

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

Approved,

/m111Dec2015