

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
SENATE BILL NO. 1648

18 JAN 15 P 6:50

Introduced by Senator JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9502,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE CHEAPER
AND QUALITY MEDICINES ACT OF 2008" AND THE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 6675, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GENEREICS ACT OF 1988" AS
AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enactment of Republic Act No. 6675, otherwise known as the "Generics Act of 1988" was aimed to promote, encourage and require the use of generic terminology in the importation, manufacture, distribution, marketing, advertising and promotion, prescription and dispensing of drugs. Further, the objective of the law is to encourage extensive use of drugs with generic names through a national system of procurement and distribution.

To ensure faithful compliance with the provision of RA 6675, Republic Act No. 9502, otherwise known as the "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008" was passed into law. It expressly amended the pertinent provisions of RA6675 by providing stricter penalty for those who violate the law.

Both laws allow the writing of brand names in medical prescriptions which give consumer choice in preferring branded medicine or generic medicine depending on the financial capacity of the patient. However, according to study conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies in 2014, less than half of the consumers were offered with generic alternatives and lesser number of consumers asked for alternatives for lack of knowledge.

The provision requiring prescriptions to be written using generic name only seems to apply to public medical, dental and veterinary practitioners only. It did not expressly mandate private practitioners to write prescription using generic name only. As such, the proposed measure aims to amend Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6675 as amended by Republic Act No. 9502 to include private practitioners to compel them to write generic name in their prescriptions.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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

1 SECTION 1. Section 38 of Republic Act No. 9502, otherwise known as the
2 "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008,"
3 and Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6675, otherwise known as the
4 "Generics Act of 1988," are hereby further amended to read as follows:

5
6 "SEC. 38. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6675, otherwise known as
7 the Generics Act of 1998, is hereby amended to read as follows:

8
9 SEC. 6. Who Shall Use Generic Terminology - xxxx

10
11 (b) All medical, dental and veterinary practitioners,
12 including private practitioners, shall write prescriptions
13 using generic name only."
14

15 SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive or administrative orders, issuances,
16 rules and regulations, and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
17 provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified
18 accordingly.
19

1 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
2 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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5 Approved,