



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

'18 MAR 13 P5:30

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SENATE  
S. B. No. 1743

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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III**

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**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10152, OR THE  
“MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH  
IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011”**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*Republic Act No. 10152*, or the “Mandatory Infants and Health Immunization Act of 2011” was enacted to address the then-growing number of newborns and children infected with the hepatitis-B virus. In a laudable effort to protect infants and children against common and vaccine-preventable diseases, the law mandated immunization for hepatitis-B and seven other diseases, among them tuberculosis, tetanus, measles, and mumps. The law also gave unfettered discretion to the Secretary of Health to determine such other types of vaccines that may be included in the mandatory basic immunization program. It is this latter feature of the law that this bill seeks to address.

In light of the ongoing controversy over the dengue vaccine, what has become clear is that the Secretary of Health has the power to overrule reservations of other experts as regards what vaccines should be administered to our children. The danger of relying on the wisdom of one individual on a matter as vital as the health of our children has been made painfully clear to us all.

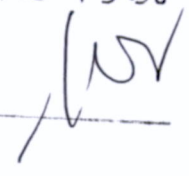
Hence, this bill proposes to repeal the Secretary of Health’s power to include vaccines in the mandatory basic immunization program. Any proposal to add other types of vaccines to those enumerated in the law must be made before Congress, which shall amend the law if it agrees that the proposed addition is necessary. For the sake of our children—and the sake of our health officials,

too—the responsibility of deciding what vaccines our children are required to receive should not be borne by one person alone.

For the foregoing reason, speedy passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

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

1        **SECTION 1. *Repealing the Discretion of the Secretary of Health***  
2 ***to Augment the List of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Mandatory***  
3 ***Basic Immunization Program.*** — Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10152,  
4 or the “Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of  
5 2011”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

6  
7        “SEC. 3. Coverage. — The mandatory basic immunization  
8 for all infants and children provided under this Act shall  
9 cover the following vaccine-preventable diseases:

10  
11        (a) Tuberculosis;

12  
13        (b) Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis;

14  
15        (c) Poliomyelitis;

16  
17        (d) Measles;

18  
19        (e) Mumps;

20  
21        (f) Rubella or German measles;

22  
23        (g) Hepatitis-B; **AND**

24  
25        (h) H. Influenza type B (HIB). [; and

1  
2 (i) Such other types as may be determined by the Secretary of  
3 Health in a department circular.] x x x x x.”  
4

5 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
6 rules and regulations, and issuances inconsistent with the provisions of  
7 this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.  
8

9 **SEC. 3. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect immediately upon  
10 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of  
11 general circulation.

*Approved,*