

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

04 AUG -3 P3:23

SENATE  
S.B. No. **1626**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 13, Section 11, provides:

The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

A guide which indicates the prices of drugs will help the consumers determine the cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs and therapies. This will enable the buyer to adequately exercise his option by giving him sufficient information about the prices of other drug products available in the market.

The purpose of the bill is to direct the Department of Health to prepare and publish an annual consumer guide for the prices of prescription drugs.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT  
TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PREPARE AND PUBLISH  
ANNUALLY A CONSUMER GUIDE TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Prescription Drug Consumer Information Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure the adequate supply of prescription drugs at the lowest possible cost. As embodied in the Constitution, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential foods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost.

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

- (1) “Department” means the Department of Health.
- (2) “Consumer Guide” means the listing of prescription drug prices.

SECTION 4. *Preparation of Consumer Guide.* – The Department shall prepare and publish in accordance with this Act a consumer guide to prescription drug prices.

SECTION 5. *Information to be Contained in the Consumer Guide.* – The consumer guide shall contain –

(1) A list of the prices of all prescription drugs in an easy-to-understand format organized by therapeutic category; and

(2) Such other related information as the Department determines will assist --

(A) consumers in reducing expenses for prescription drugs; and

(B) health care providers in determining the cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs as compared to other prescription drugs and to other therapies.

SECTION 6. *Publication.* -- The Department shall publish the first consumer guide within one (1) year after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall publish an updated version of the consumer guide annually thereafter. In addition, the Department shall publish quarterly in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation changes in the prices of prescription drugs between the dates of the annual publication of the consumer guide.

SECTION 7. *Availability of Consumer Guide.* -- The Department shall --

(1) provide the consumer guide to public libraries;

(2) provide for the dissemination of the consumer guide widely to consumers of prescription drugs and health care providers; and

(3) encourage organizations representing senior citizens, health care consumers, and health care professionals to make the consumer guide available to the members of the organizations.

SECTION 8. *Fees for Consumer Guide.* --

(1) In General -- Except as provided in subsection (2), the Department shall charge a reasonable fee for providing the consumer guide which may not exceed an amount reasonably related to the costs of publishing and distributing the consumer guide.

(2) Exception – The Department shall not charge a fee for providing the consumer guide to public libraries.

(3) Fees Collected – Fees collected in exchange for providing the consumer guide shall be used by the Department to cover the costs of publishing and distributing the consumer guide.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.