


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

7 JUL -4 A10:04

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 979

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Parkinson's disease is a debilitating, painful and incurable neurological disorder of unknown origin that disrupts and can end the lives of those who suffer from it.

Parkinson's disease causes diverse symptoms, including rigidity, slowness of movement, poor balance and tremors, which lead to an impaired ability to walk, speak, swallow and even breathe, so that the end result can be a clear mind trapped inside a body that has lost its ability to function. The visible symptoms of Parkinson's disease are often mistaken to be a normal part of the aging process.

It has been estimated that thousands of Filipinos have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, there are more diagnosed nationally each year, and most of them have never seen a neurologist.

The bill shall include programs such as development of a public education and outreach campaign to promote Parkinson's disease awareness and education, including, but not limited to, the cause and nature of the disease, diagnostic procedures and appropriate indications for their use, lifestyle issues relating to how a person copes with Parkinson's disease, environmental safety and injury prevention and availability of Parkinson's disease diagnostic and treatment services in the community.

  
MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING "PARKINSON'S DISEASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND  
EDUCATION ACT."**

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

**SECTION 1.** Title- This Act shall be known and cited as the "Parkinson's  
Disease Public Awareness and Education Act".

**SECTION 2.** The Commissioner of Health shall establish a Parkinson's  
disease public awareness and education program.

**SECTION 3.** The purpose of the program shall be to promote public  
awareness of Parkinson's disease and the value of early detection and  
possible treatments, including the benefits and risks of those treatments. The  
Department may accept, for that purpose, any special grant of monies,  
services or property from the government or any of its agencies, or from any  
foundation, organization or medical school.

**SECTION 4.** The program shall include the following:

1. Development of a public education and outreach campaign to  
promote Parkinson's disease awareness and education, including, but not  
limited to, the following subjects:

- a. the cause and nature of the disease;
- b. diagnostic procedures and appropriate indications for their  
use;
- c. lifestyle issues relating to how a person copes with Parkinson's  
disease, including, but not limited to, nutrition, diet and physical  
exercise;
- d. environmental safety and injury prevention; and
- e. availability of Parkinson's disease diagnostic and treatment  
services in the community.

2. Development of educational materials to be made available to consumers through local the local government, physicians, hospitals and clinics.

3. Development of professional education programs for health care providers to assist them in understanding research findings.

4. Development of educational programs for other personnel, including judicial staff, police officers, fire fighters and social services and emergency medical service providers, to assist them in recognizing the symptoms of Parkinson's disease and understanding how to respond to the needs of persons with the disease in the course of performing their duties, including dissemination of the informational booklet prepared; and

5. Development and maintenance of a list of current providers of specialized services for the diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson's disease. Dissemination of the list shall be accompanied by a description of diagnostic procedures, appropriate indications for their use, and a cautionary statement about the current status of Parkinson's disease research and treatment.

**SECTION 5.** Implementing Rules and Regulations.- The Department of Health shall promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

**SECTION 6.** Repealing Clause.- Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 7.** Effectivity Clause.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.