

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

7 SEP 21

SENATE

S.B. No. 1654

RECEIVED  
SEP 21 1975

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Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent studies have shown that Hepatitis B is endemic in the Philippines and now affects more than eight (8) million or around ten percent (10%) of Filipinos. Hepatitis B virus infection is the recognized cause of chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis, and is likewise said to be the cause of hepato-cellular carcinoma.


It is further established that Hepatitis B virus can be transmitted not only through contaminated blood or blood products, but also from an infected pregnant mother to her newborn, the probability of the latter is as high as 20 to 30 percent (20%-30%). Most Hepatitis B carriers are ignorant of their condition because symptoms are not manifest. Thus, the early prevention of the disease is still the best protection that may be given a child. Studies have shown that a routine Hepatitis B vaccination of all newborn, immediately within twelve (12) hours from birth, is the best opportunity to prevent unrecognized perinatal transmission of the virus and has been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

  
COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO  
Senator

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

7 SEP 27

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1654

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Introduced by SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO

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**AN ACT REQUIRING  
MANDATORY BASIC IMMUNIZATION SERVICES AGAINST HEPATITIS-B FOR  
INFANTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 996 AS  
AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION. 1.** Section 2 of Presidential Decree No. 996 as amended, is hereby  
2 amended to read as follows:

3           “SEC. 2. *Scope* – Basic Immunization services shall include (a) BCG Vaccination  
4 against tuberculosis; (b) Inoculation against diptheria, tetanus, and pertussis; (c) Oral  
5 poliomyelitis immunization; (d) Protection against measles; (e) Immunization against  
6 rubella; (f) immunization against Hepatitis-B; (g) such other basic immunization services  
7 for infants and children below eight years of age as determined by the Secretary of  
8 Health in a department circular: *Provided, That* [newborn infants of women with  
9 Hepatitis-B shall be given immunization against Hepatitis-B within twenty-four (24)  
10 hours after birth] **ALL NEW BORN INFANTS SHALL BE GIVEN IMMUNIZATION  
11 AGAINST HEPATITIS-B IMMEDIATELY WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS  
12 AFTER BIRTH; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT INFANTS BORN OUTSIDE A  
13 HOSPITAL, MEDICAL CLINIC OR THE LIKE, SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ANY  
14 AVAILABLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY SO AS TO BE IMMUNIZED AGAINST  
15 HEPATITIS-B WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS AFTER BIRTH BUT NOT LATER  
16 THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS: PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT THE SUBSEQUENT  
17 DOSES OF HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION SHALL BE COMPLETED ACCORDING TO**

1 THE RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE OF HEPATITIS-B IMMUNIZATION, AS MAY BE  
2 PROVIDED IN THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED UNDER  
3 SECTION 4 HEREOF; *PROVIDED, FINALLY*, THAT ALL HEALTH CARE  
4 PRACTITIONERS OR HEALTH CARE WORKERS WHO ARE ADMINISTERING  
5 PRENATAL CARE SHALL EDUCATE ALL PREGNANT MOTHERS ON THE  
6 IMPORTANCE OF GIVING THEIR INFANTS THE BASIC IMMUNIZATION SERVICES  
7 AS WELL AS ANY POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF IMMUNIZATION.”

8 **SEC. 2. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of  
9 this Act shall be taken from the two and half percent (2.5%) allocation for the disease  
10 prevention program of the Department of Health (DOH) from the incremental revenues  
11 from the alcohol and tobacco excise taxes, as provided for under R. A. 9334.

12 The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall include the basic  
13 immunization services in its benefit package when actuarial studies have determined its  
14 financial feasibility.

15 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** - All other laws, decrees, executive orders,  
16 presidential issuances, rules and regulations or any part thereof, which are inconsistent  
17 herewith, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Health shall  
19 promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days  
20 after the approval of this Act.

21 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or  
22 provisions of this Act shall be declared or held unconstitutional or invalid, other provision  
23 or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and  
24 effect.

25 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general  
27 circulation.

28 Approved,  
29