

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

8 JUL 24 P 6:16

SENATE



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

Senate Bill No. 2473

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Department of Health (DOH) reported that 70 percent or 58 million Filipinos had already been exposed to hepatitis-B virus. Of the said number, 10 to 12 percent or 7 million are chronically infected, and 30 percent or 2.1 million will develop liver ailments when they hit the age of 30 to 50. Many Filipino children remain unvaccinated and many adults may be chronic carriers. Although most hepatitis- B carriers have no symptoms, they can still transmit the infection and develop liver cancer. Liver cancer caused by chronic hepatitis-B infection in many cases is the second most common cancer in Filipino men.

Hepatitis-B virus can be transmitted by blood transfusions, sharing or reusing needles for injection or tattoos, and unprotected sex. Many gets infected when they are infants or at young age. Frequently, transmission of the hepatitis-B virus occurs during the birthing process when the virus is passed on from the mother who is often unaware that she is a carrier and has chronic hepatitis-B to her child. It can also be transmitted during early childhood through direct contact with blood of infected individuals, occurring from contact between open wounds or sharing toothbrushes or razors.

This Liver Cancer and Hepatitis-B Awareness and Prevention Month aim to increase public consciousness on the liver cancer and hepatitis-B. Massive information campaign and other support programs will help the public battles the disease and even prevent it at the early stage.



RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS  
"LIVER CANCER AND HEPATITIS-B AWARENESS AND PREVENTION  
MONTH"**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as "The Liver Cancer and Hepatitis-B Awareness and Prevention Month Act."

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - In line with the principles and mandates set by the Philippine Constitution that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them" (Article 2, Section 15) and that "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development" (Article 13, Section 11).

**Section 3. Awareness Month.** - The month of February of every year throughout the Philippines shall be known under the name of "Liver Cancer and Hepatitis-B Awareness and Prevention Month."

**SECTION 4. Public Education and Awareness Program.** - To ensure the meaningful observance of the month as herein declared, a comprehensive public education and awareness program shall be undertaken on the communicable disease of Hepatitis-B, which causes around 70% of liver cancers. The program shall specifically discuss the causes, transmission, consequences, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of Hepatitis-B, including the urgent need for routine and immediate infant immunization, which is a compulsory government health policy in order to combat the rapid spread of the disease and protect lives,

as well as the importance of child and adult vaccination, for a holistic approach to battling the virus.

**SECTION 5. Inter-Agency and Multi-Sectoral Effort.** - The Department of Health shall lead in the implementation of the comprehensive public education and awareness program on hepatitis - B and liver cancer through a collaborative inter-agency and multisectoral effort at all levels. It shall particularly ensure widespread and expeditious public information about the benefits of compulsory routine immunization for hepatitis - B of all infants within 24 hours after birth, which is in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) prescription for immediate infant immunization in all countries with a high endemic rate of hepatitis - B infections like the Philippines.

**SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Health shall promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its approval.

**SECTION 7. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 8. 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, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,