

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 1950

SENATE  
S. No. 1600


RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Patients are particularly vulnerable to exposures to harmful substances. Numerous chemicals found in hospitals may be toxic or irritating to body systems. They may be present as dusts, vapors or gases, or liquids and they may be medications and other substances used for therapeutic purposes. Employees, because of the significant amounts of time they spend at work, also have the potential for significant exposures. Hospitals present numerous hazards in common with other complex employment settings and industries as well as having some unique hazards.

This bill will serve several purposes. It will make hospitals more aware of the hazardous materials and substances used and stored in their premises. It will cause hospitals to minimize the use of these hazardous materials and substances, use less toxic replacements and remove those hazardous materials that serve no purpose. The bill will also allow hospital occupants to learn what hazardous materials they may be exposed to.\*

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

\* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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1 AN ACT  
2 MANDATING EMPLOYEE AND PATIENT NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
3 HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARDS IN HOSPITALS

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

6 SECTION 1. *Notification of Hazards.* To ensure that each patient and hospital  
7 employee has access to information about environmental health issues and hazards in the  
8 hospital, the following actions shall be taken by each hospital:

9 A. Each hospital shall appoint an environmental health and safety information access  
10 contact person;

11 B. Annually, each hospital shall inform and educate all hospital employees that they  
12 have a right to all information about health and safety conditions in the hospital including, but  
13 not limited to, hazardous substances used, stored or present in the hospital; construction and  
14 rehabilitation activities; air or water quality sampling results and problems; procedures for  
15 information access; identification of the environmental health and safety information access  
16 contact person; requirements to timely response to information requests; and such other  
17 procedures which ensure access to such information.

18 C. Each hospital shall inform and educate every patient, as soon after the patient's  
19 admission to the hospital as is reasonably possible without jeopardizing the patient's health, that  
20 they have a right to all information about health and safety conditions in the hospital including,  
21 but not limited to, hazardous substances used, stored or present in the hospital; construction and  
22 rehabilitation activities; air or water quality sampling results and problems; procedures for  
23 information access; identification of the environmental health and safety information access

1 contact person; requirements to timely response to information requests; and such other  
2 procedures which ensure access to such information.

3 SECTION 2. *Inventory*. Each hospital shall:

4 A. Annually inventory all hazardous substances used, stored or present, and make such  
5 inventory available to the public;

6 B. Develop written plans to minimize the use and presence of hazardous substances,  
7 including a timetable for the completion of the components of such plans, and

8 C. Prepare written reports on the results of all sampling, evaluation and remediation  
9 activities, and make such reports available to the public.

10 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or  
11 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
12 modified accordingly.

13 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause*. – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is  
14 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not  
15 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

16 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
17 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

18 Approved,