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SENATE
S. No. 1582

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution:

“The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), exposure to pesticides can produce cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, headaches, and eye irritation. There is also mounting evidence that long-term pesticide exposure in adults is associated with chronic health effects such as cancer, neurological and reproductive problems. Children may be particularly susceptible to pesticide toxicity because many of their organ systems have not reached developmental maturity.

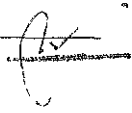
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an alternative pest-control technique that manages and suppresses pests by preventing their access to food, water and shelter. These strategies can be more cost-efficient than traditional pest control options. Using IPM at schools can reduce pesticide exposures of workers and students. The practice of using IPM in schools must become an established national policy. *


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

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AN ACT
TO PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS FROM PESTICIDES

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

SECTION 1. *Definition.* For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall the meanings set forth below:

- A. Pesticide shall mean a fungicide used on plants, an insecticide, an herbicide or a rodenticide but does not mean a sanitizer, disinfectant, anti-microbial agent or pesticide bait.
- B. School means all facilities, both public and private educational institutions.
- C. Facilities means school buildings, land and other appurtenances of all public or private educational institutions.
- D. Daycare Facility shall mean licensed and registered child daycare homes, programs and facilities.
- E. Integrated Pest Management and IPM means a decision-making process for pest control that utilizes regular monitoring to determine if and when controls are needed; employs physical, mechanical, cultural, biological and educational tactics to control conditions that promote pest infestations and to keep pest populations at tolerable damage or annoyance levels; and only as a last resort, utilizes least toxic pesticide controls. The overall goal of IPM is to eliminate the unnecessary use of pesticides and reduce the use of all pesticides.

SECTION 2. *Integrated Pest Management.* On the first of June after the effectivity date of this Act, all schools and daycare facilities shall have Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plans

1 for all pest control activities, which have been subject to public review and approved by the
2 school board. Such plans shall utilize IPM techniques to manage and control pests and problems.
3 All IPM plans shall include a provision for public access to all information about the
4 implementation of the plan. School districts may create advisory committees to assist in the
5 development of the IPM plans, and to monitor the implementation of such plans.

6 SECTION 3. *Prohibition of Pesticide.* By the first of June in the year next succeeding the
7 effectivity date of this Act, all applications of pesticides made on the grounds of any public or
8 private school facility premises or daycare facility premises shall be prohibited. Such prohibition
9 shall not include any application of pesticides deemed necessary by the Department of
10 Environment and Natural Resources to protect the public health, safety, welfare, pesticides
11 needed to protect the building and structural integrity of such facility. Such necessary application
12 may be made outside of regular business hours provided it is the least toxic alternative. No child
13 enrolled at such school or daycare facility may enter an area where pesticides have been applied
14 until it is safe to do so according to the provisions of the pesticide label.

15 SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* Within twelve months of the effective
16 date of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in cooperation with the
17 Department of Health shall issue rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of
18 this Act, including but not limited to a model plan, a compliance schedule and appropriate
19 penalties for noncompliance. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not limited to
20 standards for technical capability and definitions for “pesticide applications necessary to protect
21 the public health, safety, and welfare” and “pesticide applications necessary to protect the
22 building and structural integrity of a facility.”

23 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
24 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
25 accordingly.

1 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
2 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not
3 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

6 Approved,