FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY		
OF THE PHILIPPINES)	,		
First Regular Session)	10	JL 19) 5.07
S. No. 1611		Q.	
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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiage	go		

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 15 provides:

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Millions of workers engaged in manufacturing parts for products such as automobiles, farm equipment, aircraft, heavy machinery, and other hardware are exposed to metalworking fluids (MWFs). Metalworking fluids are in widespread, high volume use for their coolant, lubricant, and corrosion resistant properties during machining operations. Metalworking fluids also provide corrosion protection for the newly machined part and machine tool.

Metalworking fluids can cause adverse health effects through skin contact with contaminated materials, spray, or mist and through inhalation from breathing MWF mist or aerosol. Skin and airborne exposures to MWFs have been implicated in health problems including irritation of the skin, lungs, eyes, nose and throat. Conditions such as dermatitis, acne, asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, irritation of the upper respiratory tract, and a variety of cancers have been associated with exposure to MWFs. The severity of health problems is dependent on a variety of factors such as the kind of fluid, the degree and type of contamination, and the level and duration of the exposure.

Skin contact occurs when the worker dips his/her hands into the fluid or handles parts, tools, and equipment covered with fluid without the use of personal protective equipment, such as gloves and aprons. Skin contact may also result from fluid splashing onto the employee from the machine if guarding is absent or inadequate. Inhalation of MWF mist or aerosol may cause irritation of the lungs, throat, and nose. In general, respiratory irritation involves some type of

chemical interaction between the MWF and the human respiratory system. Exposure to MWF mist or aerosol may also aggravate the effects of existing lung disease. A number of studies have found an association between working with MWF and a variety of cancers, including cancer of the rectum, pancreas, larynx, skin, scrotum, and bladder.

This bill seeks to address the health and safety concerns posed by MWF use in the workplace. ¹

MIRTAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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	FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)			
	OF THE PHILIPPINES) First Regular Session)			
	10 JL 19 PS :07 SENATE			
	S. No. SENATE 11			
	RECEIVED EV.			
	Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago			
	AN ACT			
REGULATING THE USE OF METALWORKING FLUIDS IN THE WORKPLACE				
	Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:			
SECTION 1. Short Title This Act shall be known as the "MWF Regulatory Act."				
	SECTION 2. Definition of terms. – As used in this Act, the term–			
(A) "Metalworking fluids" or MWF refer to a range of oils and other liquids that are used				
to cool and/or lubricate metal work pieces when they are being machined, ground, milled,				
	or industrially processed;			
	(B) "Department" means the Department of Labor and Employment;			
	SECTION 3. Requirements for a workplace using MWFs an employer must observe			
	the following requirements if he uses MWFs in his place of business-			
	(A) Obtain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) from the supplier to know exactly what			
	type of MWF they are working with and what precautions to take;			
	(B) Obtain technical bulletins that may provide additional health and safety information;			
	(C) Choose MWFs with the least toxic materials, whenever possible;			
	(D) Proper design and operation of the MWF delivery system— Use a system designed to			
	generate a minimum amount of fluid mist. It is prohibited to use compressed air to			
	blow clean parts covered with MWF as the air pressure causes the MWF to be			
	airborne;			
	(E) Install complete enclosures or splash guards, depending on the operation, to keep the			
	metalworking fluids contained and away from the operator;			

1	(F) Use exhaust ventilation to prevent accumulation and recirculation of airborne
2	contaminants;
3	(G) Proper maintenance of equipment— Reduce the amount of contamination into the
4	MWFs, such as hydraulic oils and other "tramp" oils, by keeping equipment in good
5	working order.
6	SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.— The Department shall adopt the
7	Implementing Rules and Regulations for this Act which shall include the following:
8	(A) Adoption of administrative controls in the form of good work practices;
9	(B) Guidelines for the mandatory use of personal protective equipment and clothing
10	where necessary;
11	(C) Proper engineering controls to minimize the deleterious effects of MWFs.
12	SECTION 5. Penalties The Department is empowered to establish and assess penalties
13	or fines against an employer for violations of this Act or regulations adopted under this Act. In
14	no circumstance will any penalties or fines exceed P10,000.00 for each day the permit holder
15	remains in violation.
16	SECTION 6. Separability Clause If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or
17	unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
18	valid and subsisting.
19	SECTION 7. Repealing Clause Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
20	order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
21	with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.
22	SECTION 8. Effectivity Clause This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23	publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

24