


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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 JUL 21 7:21

SENATE
S. No. **1746**


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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Drug overdose (or simply overdose or OD) is the ingestion or application of a drug or other substance in quantities greater than are recommended or generally practiced.* Overdoses of drugs or chemicals can be either accidental or intentional. Drug overdoses occur when a person takes more than the medically recommended dose. However, some people may be more sensitive to certain medications so that the high end of the therapeutic range of a drug may be toxic for them. On the other hand, illicit drugs, used to get high, may be taken in overdose amounts when a person's metabolism cannot detoxify the drug fast enough to avoid unintended side effects. †

Thus, whether intentional or accidental, one thing is clear with regard to overdoses: they are preventable. Hence, this bill seeks to prevent deaths caused by drug overdose by requiring the Secretary of Health to study and submit a report to Congress on the incidence of drug overdose and what strategies could be undertaken to prevent such overdose from happening to other people. Because of the necessity of such information regarding drug overdose, this bill likewise seeks to penalize certain persons who unlawfully withhold or fail to disclose information regarding drug overdose deaths. **


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug_overdose

†http://www.emedicinehealth.com/dmg_overdose/article_em.htm

** This bill was originally filed during the 14th Congress 1st Regular Session

10 JUL 21 P1:21

SENATE
S. No. **1746**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO PREVENT DEATHS CAUSED BY DRUG OVERDOSE

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "Drug Overdose Prevention Act."

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote the general
5 welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, this Act seeks to prevent deaths caused by drug
6 overdose by requiring the Secretary of Health to submit a report to Congress relating to the
7 prevalence of drug overdose incidents, trends in drug overdose incidents and strategies for
8 addressing such drug overdose incidents.

9 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -For the purposes of this Act, the term:

10 (A) "Department" means the Department of Health; and

11 (B) "Overdose" means the ingestion or application, whether intentional or accidental, of a
12 drug or other substance in quantities greater than are recommended or generally practiced.

13 C) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.

14 SECTION 4. *Reporting Requirements.* - (A) The Secretary shall publish, based on
15 information collected pursuant to the Act, findings on nationwide drug overdose trends that
16 reviews overdose death rates and other information to ascertain changes in the cause and rates of
17 fatal drug overdoses for an appropriate period of time. The report shall also provide information
18 on interventions that would be effective in reducing the rate of drug overdose.

19 (B) The report shall include, at a minimum the following information:

20 (1) Trends in drug overdose deaths;

21 (2) Trends in emergency room utilization for the treatment of drug overdose;

(3) Trends in utilization of pre-hospital and emergency services and the cost of emergency services utilization for drug overdose;

(4) Suggested improvements in data collection; and

(5) A description of education efforts and other interventions that would be effective in reducing the rate of drug overdose.

SECTION 5. *Advice Regarding Drug Overdose.* - The Secretary shall, as needed, provide advice to appropriate municipal, city or provincial officials with regard to drug overdose, including:

(A) The prevalence of drug overdose incidents;

(B) Trends in drug overdose incidents; and

(C) Strategies for addressing drug overdose in their jurisdiction.

SECTION 6. *Mandatory Disclosure of Death by Drug Overdose.* - Where a death is caused by a drug overdose, such information shall be indicated by the parent, spouse, child, sibling or next of kin of the overdose victim, including any related or specific information concerning the drug or drugs responsible for the death, and any other information related to the overdose death as the Secretary shall require.

SECTION 7. *Unlawful Withholding or Failure to Disclose Drug Overdose Information; Violation; Penalties.* - (A) It shall be unlawful for such parent, spouse, child, sibling or next of kin to knowingly withhold, or fail to disclose, such information relating to the fact of the victim's drug overdose, information concerning the drug or drugs responsible for the death, and other information relating to the overdose death.

(B) It shall likewise be unlawful for the hospital, health care facility, attending physician, or medico-legal in possession of such information to withhold or fail to disclose such when filing a report of the overdose victim's death. Such report shall be mandatory and the Secretary shall promulgate rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the passage of this Act regarding the filing of such report.

(C) Any person convicted for unlawful withholding or failure to disclose information required in the preceding paragraph shall be penalized with a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) to not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

1 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
6 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

7 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

9 Approved,