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SENATE
S. No. 1776

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

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

Drywall is the term used for a common method of producing interior walls and ceilings using panels made of gypsum plaster pressed between two thick sheets of paper, then kiln dried. Drywall construction is used globally for the finish construction of interior walls and ceilings. Drywall construction became prevalent as a speedier alternative to traditional plaster interior finish techniques, which involved hand-placing base, scratch and finish coats in successive layers by hand.

Laboratory tests of samples of some drywalls for volatile chemicals have identified emissions of the sulfurous gases carbon disulfide, hydrogen sulfide, and carbonyl sulfide.¹ The chemicals embedded in the toxic drywall leech out as gasses and combine with the moisture in air conditioning coils to create sulfuric acid. Air-conditioning companies in Florida in the United States found that the failure of their products was caused by high levels of airborne sulfur and moldy toxins.

As homes sustain corrosion in electrical wiring, HVAC units, and even jewelry, their owners experience a myriad of illnesses and symptoms. The effects are particularly hazardous to

¹ <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/87/8718sci2.html>

children, the elderly, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing respiratory illness.² This bill seeks to inform consumers of the potential risk posed by drywalls that undergo toxic manufacturing processes and to prevent this practice in the drywall industry.³

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

² <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1887059,00.html>;
<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/view/106449>

³ This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14th Congress.

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1 AN ACT
2 REGULATING THE RAW MATERIALS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DRYWALLS

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 the “Drywall Production
4 Regulatory Act.”

5 SECTION 2. *Manufacturing Requirement.* – It shall be unlawful for a drywall
6 manufacturer to use gypsum or any other material recycled from use as filtering materials in
7 coal-based energy facilities or those that go through other similarly toxic processes. It shall also
8 be unlawful to use toxic substances in the post production treatment of drywalls.

9 SECTION 3. *Import Restrictions.* – Imported drywalls must meet the same standards
10 imposed on locally produced products.

11 SECTION 4. *Duty of the Department of Health.* – The Department is required to come up
12 with a list of all known and proven hazardous contaminants that may be used to manufacture
13 drywalls and to inform the public of their presence in products or the environment.

14 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* – The Department is empowered to establish and assess penalties
15 or fines against any person for violations of this Act or regulations adopted under this Act. In no
16 case shall the fine exceed one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00).

1 SECTION 6. *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 7. *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 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,