

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 21 P4:42

SENATE
S. No. 1783

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 and 24 provides that:

The State shall adopt and integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be a priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

As enshrined in our Constitution, a meaningful health development program requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. This means that all our efforts must be coordinated towards addressing all health areas that require solutions and are prime for development. In order to do this efficiently, we must make all relevant information available to all. By doing so, not only do we help prevent unnecessary errors in the diagnosis and treatment of many yet unidentified diseases, we will be able to build on past and present efforts towards better health services and disease prevention. The development of the Internet provides us with a cheap and efficient means through which we can distribute all necessary information that can help our health professionals and patients alike in addressing undiagnosed diseases.

This bill seeks to establish an Undiagnosed Diseases Registry through the Department of Health which shall be made available to the public subject to reasonable information restriction as provided for in this bill and as further determined by the Secretary of Health.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14th Congress.

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1 AN ACT
2 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF AN
3 UNDIAGNOSED DISEASES REGISTRY

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Undiagnosed Diseases
5 Registry Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Definitions.* – For purposes of this Act the term –

7 A. Registry – means the Undiagnosed Diseases Registry established under this Act;

8 and

9 B. Secretary – means the Secretary of Health.

10 SECTION 3. *Establishment of the Undiagnosed Diseases Registry.* – The Secretary shall
11 establish and maintain an undiagnosed diseases registry.

12 SECTION 4. *Content of the Registry.* – The Secretary shall include in the registry such
13 information respecting undiagnosed diseases as the Secretary deems appropriate for the purpose
14 of facilitating the early recognition, prevention, treatment, cure, and control of such diseases.

15 SECTION 5. *Availability of Registry Information.* – For the purpose described in Section
16 4, the Secretary may make the information in the registry publicly available, except the Secretary
17 shall not publicly disclose—

18 A. individually identifiable information; or

1 B. trade secrets or commercial or financial information obtained from a person and
2 privileged or confidential.

3 SECTION 6. *Online Access to Available Information.* – The information in the registry
4 shall be made available over the Internet, subject to the limitations provided under Section 5.

5 SECTION 7. *Continuous Update of Information.* – The Secretary shall provide for a
6 system of continuous updating of the information in the registry based on scientific advances in
7 the fields of diagnosis, prevention and treatment relating to such information.

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

11 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
12 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
13 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,