

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

9 JAN 29 P 1:45

SENATE
S. No. 3025

RECEIVED BY

14

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. “

In a study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the distribution of hospital wastes in developing countries are 80% general health care wastes, 15% pathological and infectious waste, 1% sharp waste, and 3% chemical or pharmaceutical wastes. These bio-medical wastes may be generated from any of the following facilities: hospitals, health centers, clinics (medical, dental, veterinary), pharmaceutical laboratories, blood banks, funeral parlors, medical schools, and research institutions.

A significant fraction of medical waste poses some form of danger if exposed to the general public or environment in an untreated form. Different types of medical waste pose different dangers depending on their nature. Requiring the reporting of medical wastes will help our officials prevent the improper disposal of this kind of health and environmental hazard.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT REQUIRING OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF
2 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE BEACHES TO REPORT THE PRESENCE OF MEDICAL WASTE
3 TO PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.

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

6 SECTION 1. *Definition.* As used in this Act, Regulated medical waste (RMW), also
7 known as “biohazardous” waste or “infectious medical” waste, shall mean the portion of the
8 waste stream generated by healthcare facilities that may be contaminated by blood, body fluids
9 or other potentially infectious materials, thus posing a significant risk of transmitting infection
10 and endangering human health.

11 SECTION 2. *Duty to Report Medical Waste.* The owner, lessee, or operator of any
12 public or private beach used for bathing shall report to the local health officer of the jurisdiction
13 in which such beach is located, or the Department of Health if there be no local health officer,
14 any regulated medical waste found washed up on the shore of such beach or visible in the water
15 from the shore of such beach.

16 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
17 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
18 accordingly.

19 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
20 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not
21 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

3 Approved,