

9 MAY 12 1972

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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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.

The word carcinogen refers to any substance or radiation that is directly involved in the existence of cancer or in the increase of its spread. This can be caused by its capability to destroy the genome or disturb cellular metabolic processes. Some radioactive substances are known carcinogens, but their ability to promote or cause cancer is attributed to the radiation. Common types of carcinogens are inhaled asbestos, some kinds of dioxins and smoke from tobacco.

Cancer is a disease where the damaged cells in the body of a patient do not undergo programmed cell death, but their growth is no longer controlled and their metabolism is changed. Carcinogens can increase the risk of getting cancer by changing cellular metabolism or destroying the DNA directly in the cells, which goes into biological processes, and induces the uncontrolled and malignant division which leads to the formation of tumors.

Preparing food at high temperatures, such as by grilling or barbecuing meats, can lead to the creation of small quantities of many powerful carcinogens that can be compared to those coming from cigarette smoke. Charring of food looks like coking and tobacco pyrolysis, and creates similar carcinogens. Reports from the Food Standards

Agency have found that the known animal carcinogen acrylamide is created in overheated or fried carbohydrate food. Studies by the Food and Drug Administration and European regulatory agencies are underway to check its potential risk to humans. The charred residue found on barbecued meat food products has been found to be a carcinogen.

This bill seeks to inform consumers of the potential risk posed by the carcinogens found in some food products.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

9 MAY 12 P2:22

SENATE
S. B. No. 3230

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1 AN ACT
2 REGULATING FOOD PRODUCTS
3 CONTAINING CARCINOGENS

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Carcinogen Regulatory Act
7 of 2009.”

8 SECTION 2. *Definition of terms.* – As used in this Act, the term—

9 (A) “Carcinogen” refers to any substance or radiation that is directly involved in the
10 existence of cancer or in the increase of its spread;

11 (B) “Department” means the Department of Health;

12 SECTION 3. *Packaging Requirement.* – Any person who offers for sale food products
13 that contain known carcinogens as identified by the Department shall include a clear,
14 conspicuous, and easily readable label on the packaging stating:

15 WARNING: This food product contains a carcinogen known to cause
16 cancer, birth defects and other reproductive hazards.

17 SECTION 4. *Penalties.* – The Department is empowered to establish and assess penalties
18 or fines against any person for violations of this Act or regulations adopted under this Act. In no
19 circumstance will any penalties or fines exceed P10,000.00 for each day the permit holder
20 remains in violation.

1 SECTION 5. *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 6. *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 7. *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,

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