


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

9 JUL 15 P 1:36

SENATE
S. B. No. **3331**

RECEIVED BY: 

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. “

Our recent experience with the A(H1N1) virus spotlights how the quarantine orders of the Department of Health (DOH) were considered as mere “suggestions”, to be followed only when it is convenient for one to do so. The DOH’s advice for people who went on foreign trips to undergo self-quarantine was largely ignored. It is a good thing that the virus turned out to be not lethal in most cases. We may not be as unfortunate the next time a global pandemic occurs.

With this bill, we will put teeth in our medical and public health authorities’ orders and issuances. Quarantine orders spell the difference between life and death of millions of people. We must not make this public health mistake twice.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT PENALIZING VIOLATIONS OF QUARANTINE ORDERS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Quarantine Violations.* – The following are considered acts constituting
5 violation of quarantine orders:

6 A.) Any person or persons who shall leave any pesthouse, or isolation hospital, or
7 quarantined house or place without the consent of the health officer having jurisdiction;

8 B.) Any person or persons who evades or breaks quarantine orders of the proper health
9 authorities;

10 C.) Any person or persons who knowingly conceals a case of contagious, infectious, or
11 communicable disease;

12 D.) Any person or persons who removes, destroys, obstructs from view, or tears down any
13 quarantine card, cloth or notice posted by the attending physician or by the health officer,
14 or by direction of a proper health officer.

15 SECTION 2. *Penalty.* Any violation of section 1 of this Act shall be punishable by a
16 fine of P1, 000, 000.00 and imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than 3 years. If
17 the violation of quarantine orders results in the infection of other persons, the penalty shall be P5,
18 000,000.00 and imprisonment of not less than 3 years but not more than 10 years. If the violation
19 of quarantine orders results in the death of one of those infected, the penalty shall be P10,
20 000,000.00 and imprisonment of not less than 10 years but not more than 20 years.

1 SECTION 3. *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 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
5 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
6 modified accordingly.

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

Approved,