

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 AUG 15 P1:18

**SENATE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1304**

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the past, the main causes of mortality are infectious diseases even in the most developed countries. Now mass immunization programs have made a remarkable impact on preventive medicine all over the world. Carrying out significant impact on the reduction of mortality and in diphtheria and tetanus cases in most of the industrialized world is the primordial aim of these programs.

Since the early 1990s, the Philippines government has promoted immunizations and vitamin A supplementation. At one time, nearly 90 percent of children aged six and younger were covered. In spite of this success, the lives of thousands of the most impoverished children in the country remain threatened by diseases that can easily be prevented. The gap is growing between these imperiled young children and those living in the industrialized world who have life-saving vaccines readily available. According to the World Health Organization vaccination saves the lives of three million children throughout the world every year, yet another two million children die because they do not have access to existing vaccines.

This bill proposes that through government hospitals, satellite offices, accredited government clinics and other medical institutions, a comprehensive vaccination program that will provide free vaccination services to infants and children be established. The program shall be administered by the Department of Health. Immunization goes beyond simply protecting the individual. It also aims to improve the health of entire communities by limiting the spread of infectious disease among children and adults. By these thoughts, the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION  
PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO INFANTS AND CHILDREN, PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as *The Vaccination and  
Immunization Act of 2013.*"

**Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The right to health is a fundamental  
guarantee enshrined in the Constitution. It is the policy of the State to instill  
health consciousness among the people and to protect and promote their right to  
accessible and quality health services.

Recognizing that vaccinations and immunizations for children have  
become expensive and barely accessible for poor families, it is hereby likewise  
declared the policy of the State that a comprehensive vaccination and  
immunization program is made available to the public for free and its  
administration adopted as a program of social justice.

**Sec. 3. Components.** - The Department of Health, through all  
government hospitals, its satellite offices, accredited government clinics and  
other medical institutions, shall provide for free to infants and children vaccination  
and immunization services for the following diseases:

- a. Hepatitis B;
- b. DPT - diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough);
- c. Influenza type B;
- d. Polio (Salk injected);
- e. Rotavirus (diarrhea and gastroenteritis)
- f. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German measles);
- g. Varicella (chicken pox)

Provided, That exemptions may be chosen by the parents on account of religious  
belief that prohibits vaccinations and immunizations, or for medical reasons and  
which is certified by a licensed medical practitioner, or for any other valid reason  
that may be advanced by the parents of the infant or child, as necessary.  
Provided, further, that a certain day of the week must be devoted for  
immunization and vaccination in all local government unit health centers.

**Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Health, in consultation with the national association of pediatrics and recognized experts from the private sector, and non-governmental organizations and peoples' organizations and academe on child health and care, shall issue the relevant rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

**Sec. 5. Fund.** - The amount of One Billion Pesos (P1, 000,000,000.00) annually to implement the provisions of this Act covering the comprehensive free immunization and vaccination of children shall be included and incorporated in the budget of the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act. One percent (1%) of all earnings made by government-owned and controlled corporations shall be collected and form part of the fund that may be used for this purpose.

**Sec. 6. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**Sec. 7. Repealing Clause.** - All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 8. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,