

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
S. No. 1316

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a country saddled with poverty such as the Philippines, women's issues as common as menopause are not given attention by the government. As every woman undergoes this pivotal stage in her lifecycle, it is important that she is educated on the consequent physical, mental, and emotional changes so as to continuously inform her about her health and well-being. It is a fact that most women, especially indigent women who have no access to information widely available on the internet, enter into menopause without a grain of idea how to cope with its effects.

The 1987 Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides:

Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

This bill requires the Department of Health and local health departments to implement a stronger information campaign to the public and health care professionals about menopause, its effects, and how women can cope throughout this period.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM ON MENOPAUSE AND
HOW WOMEN CAN COPE WITH THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL
CHANGES AS A CONSEQUENCE THEREOF AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "National Information Program on Menopause."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State shall promote the well-being of women as they play a myriad of roles in society - as mother, wife, and as part of the labor force, among others. Menopause is a vital stage in every woman's life and its effects cut across a woman's physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Hence, the State must take cognizance of this important issue among middle-age women and give attention to the proper education of women on this matter.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms:

A. "DOH" - shall refer to the Department of Health;

B. "PIA" - shall refer to the Philippine Information Agency;

C. "Menopause" - is the day after a woman's final period. This date is fixed retrospectively, once twelve (12) months have gone by with no menstrual flow at all. At this point a woman is considered to be a year into postmenopause, is considered to be infertile, and no longer needs to take into consideration the possibility of pregnancy; and

1 D. "Post menopause" - all of the time in a woman's life that take place after her last
2 period, or more accurately, all of the time that follows the point when her ovaries become
3 inactive.

4 SECTION 4. *National Information Program on Menopause* – The DOH shall distribute
5 to the public and to health care professionals:

- 6 A. Medically accurate information about menopause
- 7 1. The expected physical, mental and emotional effects of menopause.
 - 8 2. The causes of the onset of menopause and its consequence to their
9 reproductive health.
- 10 B. Hormonal and other supplements to reduce the impact of menopause on women's
11 health.
- 12 C. The information referred to above shall be distributed
- 13 1. free of charge;
 - 14 2. provided in English, Filipino, as well as other dialects that may be appropriate
15 for the geographic area.

16 SECTION 5. *Implementing Agency*. — The Department of Health (DOH), in cooperation
17 with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a
18 system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The Secretary of Health shall,
19 within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations to carry
20 out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

21 SECTION 6. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
22 Act are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

23 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
24 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
25 valid and subsisting.

1 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
3 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,