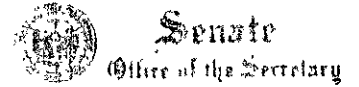


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'14 AUG -6 P2 :02

SENATE
S. NO. **2345**

RECEIVED BY *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A RESEARCH
CENTER ON OBESITY PREVENTION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Overweight, as defined by the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity or PASOO, is increased body weight in relation to height, while obesity is the state of excessive amounts of fat in the body.

In a nationwide nutrition survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST), it showed that 14 percent of Filipinos 20 years old and above are overweight, while 2.6 percent are obese.

Translated in absolute figures, there are 5.7 million Filipino adults who are either overweight or obese.

According to Dr. Gary Sy¹, studies and statistics indicate that obesity is associated with increases in illness and death from diabetes mellitus, stroke, coronary artery disease, kidney and gallbladder disorders. The more overweight you are, the stronger this association becomes. Statistics suggest that if you are more than 40 percent overweight you are twice as likely to die of coronary artery disease as compared to a person who is not overweight. If you are 20 to 30 percent overweight, you may be three times more likely to die of diabetes. The risks seem higher when the excess weight is concentrated

¹ Obesity. <<http://www.mb.com.ph/obesity>>. Last accessed on 28 July 2014.

around the waist, and the ratio of the waist to the hip measurement is sometimes used to measure this risk. People with a high waist-to-hip ratio are at greater risk than those whose excess fat is distributed in the hip area. Obesity also contributes to high blood pressure, which is by itself a risk factor in both heart disease and stroke. If you have high blood pressure, you can reduce your blood pressure simply by losing weight.

Studies show that obesity not only increases health risks but also reduces life expectancy. Potentially fatal conditions associated with obesity include Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, cancers, and gall bladder disease. As many as 80 percent of people with Type 2 diabetes are obese at the time of diagnosis. Incidence of Type 2 diabetes is particularly associated with central obesity or apple shape obesity and escalates significantly with increasing Body Mass Index (BMI).


As overweight and obesity pose health problems to the country, people need to be informed of the risks, prevention, and treatment before productivity will be hampered by poor health and loss of life. Thus, urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.²

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

² This bill is patterned after New York State's Obesity Prevention Act.

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SENATE
S. NO. **2345**

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

1 AN ACT
2 MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A RESEARCH
3 CENTER ON OBESITY PREVENTION
4

5 SECTION 1. *Short title.* - This bill shall be known and may be cited as the
6 "Obesity Prevention Act".
7

8 SECTION 2. *Definition.* - As used in this act, unless the context otherwise
9 requires, the term obesity shall mean the condition in which a person's body mass index
10 is at least thirty kilograms per meter squared, or where a person's body mass index is at
11 least twenty-seven kilograms per meter squared and the person suffers from one or more
12 of the following conditions or diseases:
13

- 14 1. Type II diabetes;
- 15 2. Impaired glucose tolerance;
- 16 3. Hyperinsulinemia;
- 17 4. Dyslipidemia;
- 18 5. Hypertension;
- 19 6. Cardiovascular disease;
- 20 7. Cerebrovascular disease;
- 21 8. Osteoarthritis of the hips or knees;
- 22 9. Sleep apnea;
- 23 10. Gastric reflux disease; or
- 24 11. Gall bladder disease.

1 SECTION 3. *Establishment of Research Center by the Department of Health.* -

2 The Obesity Prevention Research Center to be established by the Department of Health
3 (department) is authorized to sample and collect data on individual cases where obesity is
4 being actively treated and to analyze such data in order to evaluate the impact of treating
5 obesity. Such data collection and analysis shall include the following:

6 a. The effectiveness of existing methods for treating or preventing obesity;

7 b. The effectiveness of alternate methods for treating or preventing obesity;

8 c. The fiscal impact of treating or preventing obesity;

9 d. The compliance and cooperation of patients with various methods of treating
10 or preventing obesity; or

11 e. The reduction in serious medical problems associated with diabetes that
12 results from treating or preventing obesity.

13 SECTION 4. *Fund.* - The department is authorized to fund the research center
14 authorized in this act from gifts, grants, and donations from individuals, private
15 organizations, foundations, or any governmental unit; except that no gift, grant, or
16 donation may be accepted by the department if it is subject to conditions that are
17 inconsistent with this title or any other laws of this state. The department shall have the
18 power to direct the disposition of any such gift, grant, or donation for the purposes of this
19 title.

20 After completion of the research, the department shall submit a report and
21 supporting materials to the legislature by June first of the following year.

22 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
23 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
24 remain valid and subsisting.

25 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
26 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to

1 or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
2 accordingly.

3 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
4 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

5

6 Approved,

7

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9 /dpm