

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



'15 NOV 23 P3 57

SENATE
S. No. 3010

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PREPARE AND PUBLISH
ANNUALLY A CONSUMER GUIDE TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 13, Section 11, provides:

The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

Republic Act No. 9502, also known as the "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008," Section 2 states:

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect public health and when the public interest or circumstances of extreme urgency so require, it shall adopt appropriate measures to promote and ensure access to affordable quality drugs and medicines for all. . . .

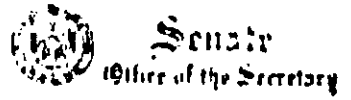
This bill seeks to direct the Department of Health to prepare and publish an annual consumer guide for the suggested retail prices of prescription drugs.

A guide which indicates the suggested retail prices of drugs will help the consumers determine the effectiveness of prescription drugs and therapies. This will enable the buyer to adequately exercise his option by giving him sufficient information about the prices of other drug products available in the market.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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¹ This bill was originally filed in the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Prescription Drug
2 Consumer Information Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure the
4 adequate supply of prescription drugs at the lowest possible cost. As embodied in the
5 Constitution, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
6 development which shall endeavor to make essential foods, health and other social
7 services available to all people at affordable cost.

8 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

9 (1) “Consumer Guide” means the listing of suggested retail prices of prescription
10 drugs; and

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

12 SECTION 4. *Preparation of Consumer Guide.* – The Department shall prepare
13 and publish a consumer guide to prescription drug prices.

1 SECTION 5. *Information in the Consumer Guide.* – The consumer guide shall
2 contain:

3 (1) A list of the suggested retail prices of all prescription drugs in an easy-to-
4 understand format organized by therapeutic category; and

5 (2) Such other related information as the Department determines will assist (A)
6 consumers in reducing expenses for prescription drugs; and (B) health care providers in
7 determining the cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs as compared to other prescription
8 drugs and to other therapies.

9 SECTION 6. *Publication.* – The Department shall publish the first consumer guide
10 within one year after the date of the effectivity of this Act and shall publish an updated
11 version of the consumer guide annually thereafter.

12 SECTION 7. *Availability of Consumer Guide.* – The Department shall publish the
13 consumer guide on its website. It shall also provide for the dissemination of the consumer
14 guide widely to consumers of prescription drugs and health care providers; and encourage
15 organizations representing senior citizens, health care consumers, and health care
16 professionals to make the consumer guide available to the members of the organizations.

17 SECTION 8. *Authorization of Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this
18 Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each
19 fiscal year

20 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
21 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
22 provisions hereof.

1 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
2 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
3 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
6 circulation.

Approved,

/11dp28Oct2015