

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



SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
JULY 11 2008

SENATE

S. No. 499

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DISEASES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the World Health Organization, diseases were determined as major cause of morbidity. Few years ago, it has been reported that sixty percent (60%) of all deaths in the Philippines are due to chronic diseases.

However, studies show that the burden of diseases as major cause of death has diminished due to improved health technology and health care delivery systems. But then again, much still needs to be done to better reduce the occurrence of illnesses through the application of health measures which could prevent widespread diseases.¹ In this light, an effective and feasible intervention from the government that aims to address health problems in the country is auspiciously significant.

This bill proposes for the establishment of the National Registry of Diseases which will provide a compilation of information on the incidence of certain diseases. This compilation will serve as a basis for the direction of programs for disease prevention and control.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

¹ Elio-Villa, Luningning. 2006. *Exploring Fresh Collaborative Initiatives for Combating Infectious Disease in the Philippines. Tropical Medicine and Health*. The Japanese Society of Tropical Medicine. Vol. 34, No.4. Data retrieved at <http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/tmh/34/4/153/> pdf on July 7, 2008

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S. No. 499

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DISEASES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*National Registry of Diseases*
2 *Act*".

4 SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall have the
5 following definitions:

6 a. "*Agent of the Registry*" means any public officer or employee of any statutory
7 body who is appointed by the Secretary under Section 3 to be an agent of the
8 Registry;

9 b. "*Anonymized*", used to describe information pertaining to an individual, means
10 that the identity of that individual has been concealed or protected, whether by
11 presenting such information in a statistical form or otherwise, such that it cannot
12 be readily discovered or ascertained from that information;

- 1 c. *"Authorized Registry Officer"* means any Registry officer who is duly authorized
2 by the Registrar, in writing, to carry out any particular function or to exercise
3 any particular power under this Act;
- 4 d. *"Disclose"*, in relation to any information held by the Registry, includes to grant
5 to any person access to such information;
- 6 e. *"Disease"* means any physical or mental ailment, disorder, defect or morbid
7 condition (whether of sudden onset or gradual development), or the recurrence
8 of any such ailment, disorder, defect or morbid condition;
- 9 f. *"Healthcare Institution"* means —
- 10 i. any licensed private hospital, medical clinic, clinical laboratory or
11 healthcare establishment; or
- 12 ii. any facility, premises or conveyance which is declared to be a
13 healthcare institution for the purposes of this Act;
- 14 g. *"Individually-Identifiable"*, when used to describe information pertaining to an
15 individual, means that the identity of that individual can be readily discovered or
16 ascertained from that information;
- 17 h. *"Investigation Officer"* means any public officer who is appointed under Section
18 13 to be an investigation officer for the purposes of this Act;
- 19 i. *"Manager"*, in relation to a healthcare institution, means the person having the
20 management or control of the healthcare institution;
- 21 j. *"Medical Practitioner"* means a registered medical practitioner and who holds a
22 valid practicing certificate;
- 23 k. *"Register"* means a register kept and maintained by the Registrar under
24 Section 5;

- 1 l. "*Registrar*" means the person appointed by the Secretary under Section 3 to be
2 the Registrar of the Registry and includes a Deputy Registrar and an Assistant
3 Registrar;
- 4 m. "*Registry*" means the National Registry of Diseases established under Section 4;
- 5 n. "*Registry officer*" means any person who is appointed by the Secretary under
6 Section 3 to be an officer of the Registry;
- 7 o. "*Regulations*" means regulations made under Section 19;
- 8 p. "*Reportable Disease*" means a report on the incidence of certain disease;
- 9 q. "*Requisite Consent*", for the purposes of Section 11 or 12, means —
- 10 i. the consent, given in the prescribed form and manner, of the
11 person whose individually-identifiable information is to be disclosed under that
12 section; or
- 13 ii. where the person referred to in paragraph (i) is unable to give
14 his own consent because of his age, infirmity of mind or body or any other
15 cause, the consent, given in the prescribed form and manner, of such other
16 person who is authorized by the regulations to give such consent for and on his
17 behalf.
- 18 r. "*Secretary*" means the Secretary of the Department of Health, for purposes of
19 Section 16, —
- 20 i. "body corporate" includes a limited liability partnership;
- 21 ii. "officer" —
- 22 (a) in relation to a body corporate, means any director, partner,
23 member of the committee of management, chief executive,
24 manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body

1 corporate and includes any person purporting to act in any such
2 capacity; or

3 (b) in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a
4 partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member
5 of the committee of the unincorporated association, or any
6 person holding a position analogous to that of president,
7 secretary or member of a committee and includes any person
8 purporting to act in any such capacity.

9 iii. "*partner*" includes a person purporting to act as a partner.

11 ARTICLE II

12 NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DISEASES

13 SEC. 3. *Appointment of Registrar.* –

14 (1) The Secretary shall appoint a Registrar who shall be responsible for the
15 administration of the Registry.

16 (2) The Secretary may appoint —

17 (a) a Deputy Registrar;

18 (b) one or more Assistant Registrars; and

19 (c) such other Registry officers as he may consider necessary, to assist the
20 Registrar in the administration of the Registry.

21 (3) The Secretary may appoint any public officer or employee of any statutory body
22 to be an agent of the Registry to assist in the collection and collation of any information
23 under this Act, subject to such conditions and limitations as the Secretary may specify.

24 (4) The Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrars, Registry officers and
25 agents of the Registry shall be deemed to be public servants.

1 **SEC. 4. *National Registry of Diseases.*** – There shall be a National Registry of

2 Diseases, the functions of which are —

3 (a) to collect information on reportable diseases that have been diagnosed and treated
4 in the country;

5 (b) to establish, keep and maintain for each reportable disease a register containing
6 individually-identifiable information obtained under this Act;

7 (c) to compile and publish statistics on the epidemiology, management and outcomes
8 of reportable diseases;

9 (d) to provide information for the purpose of supporting —

10 (i) health services that are being provided by healthcare institutions to the
11 patients thereof who are suffering from any reportable disease; and

12 (ii) national public health policies, initiatives, programs and related studies
13 concerning any reportable disease; and

14 (e) generally to do all such acts, matters and things as are necessary to be carried out
15 under this Act.

16
17 **SEC. 5. *Registers.*** –

18 (1) The Registrar shall keep and maintain for each reportable disease a register
19 containing individually-identifiable information of each person who is diagnosed with and
20 treated for that disease in the country.

21 (2) The registers kept and maintained under subsection (1) shall not be open for
22 inspection by the public.

1 (a) to furnish the prescribed additional information to any Registry officer or
2 agent of the Registry; or

3 (b) to produce to the Registrar or any Registry officer or agent of the Registry
4 for inspection any medical record, book or document which contains or may
5 contain the prescribed additional information.

6 (3) Any manager of a healthcare institution who —

7 (a) without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with the requirement of the
8 Registrar or an authorized Registry officer under this section; or

9 (b) in compliance or purported compliance with this section, furnishes as true
10 information which he knows or has reason to believe to be false, shall be
11 guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding
12 Eighty Thousand Pesos (P80,000.00).

13 (4) A certificate under the hand of the Registrar stating that the additional
14 information required under subsection (1) has not been furnished or is incorrect shall be
15 *prima facie* evidence of the facts stated in the certificate.

17 ARTICLE IV

18 CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE

19 SEC. 8. *Confidentiality.* —

20 (1) Except in the case of a prosecution for an offence under this Act, the Registrar, a
21 Registry officer, an agent of the Registry or any other person who acts under the direction of
22 the Secretary or Registrar for any purpose related to the Registry shall not be compellable in
23 any proceedings to give evidence in respect of, or to produce any document containing any
24 individually-identifiable information which has been obtained under this Act.

1 (2) Except as otherwise provided by this Act, the Registrar, a Registry officer, an
2 agent of the Registry or any other person who acts under the direction of the Secretary or
3 Registrar for any purpose related to the Registry shall not disclose the contents of any register
4 or any individually-identifiable information which may have come to his knowledge in the
5 course of performing any duty or function under this Act or carrying out any act in relation to
6 the Registry.

7 (3) Any person who fails to comply with subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence
8 and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand Pesos
9 (P400,000.00) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve (12) months or to both.

10

11 **SEC. 9. *Disclosure and Publication of Anonymized Information.* —**

12 (1) The Registrar —

13 (a) may, on a request by any person and —

14 (i) upon payment by such person of the prescribed fee; and

15 (ii) subject to such conditions as the Registrar may impose; and

16 (b) shall, on a request by the Secretary, disclose or publish any information held by
17 the Registry in an anonymized form.

18 (2) Any person who fails to comply with any condition imposed under subsection (1) shall
19 be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Two Hundred
20 Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six (6) months or
21 to both.

1 **SEC. 10. National Public Health Programs.** —

2 (1) The Registrar may, with the approval of the Secretary, disclose individually-
3 identifiable information held by the Registry to any public officer or any other person for the
4 purpose of conducting national public health programs concerning any reportable disease.

5 (2) In determining whether to approve such disclosure under subsection (1), the
6 Secretary shall, subject to subsection (3), have regard to —

7 (a) the aims and objectives of the national public health program, including
8 any public health benefits to the country;

9 (b) the identity of the public officers or persons involved in the program to
10 whom the individually-identifiable information held by the Registry will be
11 disclosed;

12 (c) the use to which the individually-identifiable information will or may be
13 put; and

14 (d) the measures that will be put in place under the national public health
15 program to protect the individually-identifiable information from unauthorized
16 disclosure.

17 (3) The Secretary shall not approve any disclosure under subsection (1) unless he is
18 satisfied that the national public health program cannot be carried out with anonymized
19 information.

20 (4) The Secretary may, when granting approval under subsection (1), impose such
21 conditions as he considers necessary with respect to —

22 (a) the identities of the public officers or persons, or class of public officers or
23 persons who are authorized to receive or handle the individually-identifiable
24 information;

1 (b) the use to which the individually-identifiable information is to or may be
2 put; and

3 (c) the measures that must be put in place under the national public health
4 program to protect the individually-identifiable information from unauthorized
5 disclosure.

6 (5) The Secretary may, at any time, vary or revoke any of the existing conditions
7 imposed under subsection (4) or impose new conditions.

8 (6) The Secretary may, at any time, revoke the approval given under subsection (1).

9 (7) Any person who fails to comply with any condition imposed under subsection (4)
10 or any new condition imposed under subsection (5) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be
11 liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (P400,000.00) or
12 to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve (12) months or to both.

13
14 **SEC. 11. *Medical Treatment.*** — The Registrar may, if he thinks fit, disclose to a
15 medical practitioner any individually-identifiable information of a medical nature held by the
16 Registry concerning a person suffering from a reportable disease if the Registrar is satisfied
17 that —

18 (a) the medical practitioner is responsible for the treatment and care of that person;

19 (b) the disclosure is necessary for the proper treatment of that person; and

20 (c) the requisite consent has been given for such disclosure.

21
22 **SEC. 12. *Disclosure of Individually-Identifiable Information for Public Health***
23 ***Research.*** —

24 (1) A person, referred to in this section as the researcher, who requires any
25 individually-identifiable information held by the Registry for the purpose of carrying out any

1 medical, epidemiological or other form of public health research concerning any reportable
2 disease may apply to the Registrar in the prescribed form for the disclosure of such
3 information.

4 (2) The Registrar may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit to impose and upon
5 the payment by the researcher of such fees as may be prescribed, disclose to the researcher
6 such individually-identifiable information if the Registrar is satisfied that —

7 (a) the research cannot be carried out with anonymized information;

8 (b) the requisite consent has been given for such individually-identifiable
9 information to be disclosed to the researcher for the purpose of the research;

10 (c) the research may —

11 (i) improve the quality of health services provided for patients
12 suffering from any reportable disease in the country; or

13 (ii) support any national public health policy, initiative or program
14 concerning any reportable disease; and

15 (d) the researcher and the research comply with such conditions as may have
16 been prescribed.

17 (3) A researcher to whom the individually-identifiable information of any person has
18 been disclosed under subsection (2) shall not —

19 (a) use such individually-identifiable information for any purpose other than
20 the purpose approved by the Registrar; or

21 (b) disclose the name or any other individually-identifiable information of that
22 person unless the requisite consent has been given for the disclosure.

23 (4) A researcher to whom the individually-identifiable information of any person has
24 been disclosed under subsection (2) shall not disclose —

1 (a) the name or any other information leading to the identification of the
2 healthcare institution in which that person has been diagnosed with, or has been or is
3 being examined or treated for, a reportable disease unless the manager of that
4 healthcare institution has given his consent for the disclosure in the prescribed form
5 and manner; or

6 (b) the name or any other information leading to the identification of the
7 person who provided the individually-identifiable information to the Registrar under
8 this Act, unless that person has given his consent for the disclosure in the prescribed
9 form and manner.

10 (5) Before making any decision on an application under subsection (2), the Registrar
11 may refer the application to a national research advisory committee comprising not less than
12 3 and not more than five (5) members appointed by the Secretary and, in making his decision,
13 the Registrar shall have regard to any report made to him by the national research advisory
14 committee.

15 (6) Where a researcher to whom any individually-identifiable information of any
16 person has been disclosed under subsection (2) contravenes subsection (3) or (4) or any
17 condition imposed under subsection (2), he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on
18 conviction to a fine not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (P400,000.00) or to
19 imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve (12) months or to both.

21 ARTICLE V

22 ENFORCEMENT POWERS

23 SEC. 13. *Appointment of Investigation Officers.* —

24 (1) The Secretary may, in writing, appoint any public officer to be an investigation
25 officer for the purpose of conducting an investigation into any offence under this Act.

1 (2) Every investigation officer, when exercising any of his powers under this Act,
2 shall, if not in uniform, declare his office and shall, on demand, produce to any person
3 affected by the exercise of that power such identification card as the Secretary may direct to
4 be carried by the investigation officer when exercising such power.

5
6 **SEC. 14. Powers of Entry, Inspection, Search, and Seizure. —**

7 (1) An investigation officer shall, for the purposes of investigating any offence under
8 this Act, have power to do any or all of the following:

9 (a) to enter, inspect and search, without warrant at any reasonable time, any
10 place which he has reason to believe contains evidence relating to or
11 connected with an offence under this Act;

12 (b) for the purposes of paragraph (a) —

13 (i) to inspect and make copies of and take extracts from, or require the
14 occupier or any person having the management or control of any place
15 mentioned in that paragraph to provide copies of or extracts from, any
16 book, document, record or electronic material;

17 (ii) to inspect and make copies of and take extracts from, or require the
18 occupier or any person having the management or control of any place
19 mentioned in that paragraph to provide copies of or extracts from, any
20 medical record of any person who has been or who is being treated or
21 examined at that place, notwithstanding that the prior consent of such
22 person has not been obtained;

23 (iii) to seize and remove from any place mentioned in that paragraph
24 any book, record, document, material, article or thing which the

1 investigation officer reasonably believes to be the subject-matter of, or
2 to be connected with the commission of, an offence under this Act; and
3 (iv) to make such examination or inquiry as may be necessary to
4 ascertain whether the provisions of this Act have been complied with;

5
6 (c) to require any person, by way of an order in writing, to produce any book,
7 document, record, electronic material, article or thing that the investigation officer
8 considers is necessary or desirable for the purposes of an investigation under this Act.

9 (2) The occupier or any person having the management and control of, or who is
10 found in, any place mentioned in subsection (1) (a) shall render all necessary assistance and
11 co-operation to the investigation officer as are necessary for an entry, inspection,
12 examination, inquiry or otherwise for the exercise of his powers under this Act in relation to
13 that place.

14 (3) Any person who —

15 (a) obstructs, hinders or impedes an investigation officer in the exercise of his
16 power under this section; or

17 (b) fails to comply with any order or requirement of an investigation officer
18 under this section or to produce any book, document, record, electronic
19 material, article or thing which he is required by or under this Act to produce
20 to an investigation officer, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on
21 conviction to a fine not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Pesos
22 (P200,000.00) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six (6) months or
23 to both.

1 **SEC. 15. Powers to Examine and Secure Attendance. —**

2 (1) An investigation officer may —

3 (a) examine orally any person supposed to be acquainted with the facts and
4 circumstances of any offence or matter under this Act, and to reduce to writing
5 any statement made by the person so examined; and

6 (b) require by order in writing the attendance before himself of any person,
7 being within the limits of the country, who, from information given or
8 otherwise, appears to be acquainted with the facts and circumstances of any
9 offence or matter under this Act and that person shall attend as so required.

10 (2) The person referred to in subsection (1) (a) shall be bound to state truly the facts
11 and circumstances with which he is acquainted concerning any offence or matter under this
12 Act, except only that he may decline to make, with regard to any fact or circumstance, a
13 statement which would have a tendency to expose him to a criminal charge, penalty or
14 forfeiture.

15 (3) A statement made under this section by any person shall be read over to him and
16 shall, after correction, if necessary, be signed by him.

17 (4) If any person fails to attend as required by an order under subsection (1) (b), the
18 investigation officer may report such failure to a Magistrate who may thereupon issue a
19 warrant to secure the attendance of that person as required by the order.

20
21 **ARTICLE VI**

22 **MISCELLANEOUS**

23 **SEC. 16. Offences by Bodies Corporate. —**

24 (1) Where an offence under this Act committed by a body corporate is proved —

25 (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer; or

1 (b) to be attributable to any neglect on his part, the officer as well as the body
2 corporate shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded
3 against and punished accordingly.

4 (2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection
5 (1) shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his
6 functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

7 (3) Where an offence under this Act committed by a partnership is proved —

8 (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a partner; or

9 (b) to be attributable to any neglect on his part, the partner as well as the
10 partnership shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded
11 against and punished accordingly.

12 (4) Where an offence under this Act committed by an unincorporated association
13 other than a partnership is proved —

14 (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer of the
15 unincorporated association or a member of its governing body; or

16 (b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of such officer or member, the
17 officer or member as well as the unincorporated association shall be guilty of
18 the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished
19 accordingly.

20
21 **SEC. 17. *Protection from Liability.* —**

22 (1) No action, suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the government or
23 personally against the Secretary, the Registrar, a Registry officer, an agent of the Registry, an
24 investigation officer or any other person for anything which is done or omitted to be done in
25 good faith in the course of or in connection with —

1 (a) the exercise or purported exercise of any power under this Act;

2 (b) the performance or purported performance of any function or the discharge
3 or purported discharge of any duty under this Act; or

4 (c) the compliance or purported compliance with this Act.

5 (2) A person who makes a notification to the Registrar under Section 6 or who
6 otherwise makes available to the Registrar, a Registry officer, an agent of the Registry or an
7 investigation officer any document or other information for the purpose of complying with
8 the requirements of this Act, shall not, by virtue of doing so —

9 (a) be liable to any suit or other legal proceedings for breach of confidence; or

10 (b) be held in any proceedings before any court or tribunal or in any other
11 respect to have breached any code of professional etiquette or ethics, or to
12 have departed from any accepted form of professional conduct.

13 (3) Where pursuant to this Act the Registrar discloses to any person any information
14 that is held by the Registry, neither the Registrar nor any Registry officer involved in the
15 disclosure of such information shall be liable for any loss or damage suffered by that person
16 or by any other person by reason of any error or omission of whatever nature appearing in the
17 information disclosed or however caused if the error or omission was made in good faith and
18 in the ordinary course of the discharge of the duties of the Registrar or Registry officer.

19
20 **SEC. 18. *Obstructing Registrar and Registry Officer in Execution of Duty.*** — Any
21 person who obstructs, hinders or impedes the Registrar, a Registry officer or an agent of the
22 Registry in the performance or execution of his duty or anything which he is authorized,
23 empowered or required to do under this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable
24 on conviction to a fine not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00) or to
25 imprisonment for a term not exceeding six (6) months or to both.

1 **SEC. 19. *Regulations.*** —

2 (1) The Department may make regulations for carrying out the purposes and
3 provisions of this Act.

4 (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Department may make
5 regulations with respect to any or all of the following matters:

6 (a) the circumstances under which, and the manner in which, individually-
7 identifiable information held by the Registry may be anonymized for the
8 purposes of disclosure and publication under Section 9;

9 (b) the circumstances under and the manner in which persons whose
10 individually-identifiable information is held by the Registry or the next-of kin
11 of such persons may be contacted for the purposes of any national public
12 health program referred to in Section 10;

13 (c) the circumstances under and the manner in which individually-identifiable
14 information held by the Registry may be disclosed for the purposes of any
15 medical, epidemiological or other form of public health research referred to in
16 Section 12;

17 (d) the circumstances under and the manner in which a person may obtain
18 certified extracts of individually-identifiable information relating to himself;

19 (e) the forms to be used for the purposes of this Act;

20 (f) the fees and charges payable under or for the purposes of this Act;

21 (g) any other matter as may be necessary or expedient to be prescribed for
22 carrying out the provisions of this Act.

23 (3) In making any regulations any contravention of or failure to comply with any
24 regulation shall be an offence punishable with a fine not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand

1 Pesos (P400,000.00) or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding six (6) months or with
2 both.

3

4 **SEC. 20. *Saving Provision for Personal Information Previously Collected.*** —

5 (1) As from the date on which any disease becomes a reportable disease for the
6 purposes of this Act —

7 (a) any personal information that had already been collected by a specified
8 entity before that date pertaining to a person who had been diagnosed with or
9 who had undergone treatment for that disease for the purposes of a national
10 disease registry shall be deemed to be personal information that has been
11 collected under and for the purposes of this Act in relation to that reportable
12 disease; and

13 (b) any person who had made a notification of any such personal information
14 to the specified entity before that date shall be entitled to the same protection
15 from liability under Section 17 (2) as if he had made the notification under
16 Section 6 on or after that date.

17

18 **SEC. 21. *Funding Provision.*** – The Secretary of the Department shall immediately
19 hereinafter include in the Department's programs the prompt implementation of this Act,
20 funding of which shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

21

22 **SEC. 22. *Enforcement.*** – It shall be the duty of all duly constituted law enforcement
23 agencies and officers of national, provincial, city, or municipal governments to uphold and
24 enforce the provisions of this Act and to investigate and prosecute or cause the investigation
25 and prosecution of any person violating the same.

1 **SEC. 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days after the
2 approval of this Act, the Department shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and
3 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

4
5 **SEC. 24. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be
6 found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration
7 shall remain in full force and effect.

8
9 **SEC. 25. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent with
10 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

11 **SEC. 26. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
12 following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
13 circulation.

Approved,