

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

SENATE
S.B. NO. 2078



'18 OCT 18 A10 :53

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT
INSTITUTING A RETINOBLASTOMA PUBLIC AWARENESS AND
PREVENTION PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

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

Retinoblastoma is the most occurring neoplasm of the eye among children. It is a type of eye cancer that usually develops during the early stages of child development. It is often curable when diagnosed early and treated promptly. According to the Review of Cancer Medicines on the World Health Organization (WHO) List of Essential Medicines 2014 it is a cancer of the very young wherein two-thirds are diagnosed before 2 years and 95% before 5 years. There is a need to consider not only the cure of this disease but also the need to preserve vision with the least long term side effects.

The proposed bill seeks to promote awareness and information for the public regarding Retinoblastoma especially among children and to strengthen research and development in order to support and manage proper treatment of this disease. In addition the increased awareness will encourage understanding, early detection and intervention which are critical in alleviating symptoms.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML Binay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Retinoblastoma
2 Awareness Act."

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and promote the
5 right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

6
7 Sec. 3. *Retinoblastoma Awareness and Prevention Program.* – The
8 Secretary of Health shall establish a retinoblastoma awareness and prevention
9 program that shall include –

10 (A) Public and community awareness programs concerning the
11 prevention and identification of retinoblastoma;

12 (B) The development of strategies to educate parents about
13 retinoblastoma, early warning signs, and risk factors based on
14 the best available medical information to encourage parents to
15 discuss retinoblastoma with their child's physician; and

16 (C) Increased accessibility to all treatment options for
17 retinoblastoma and the provision of services for children,
18 adolescents, and adults with retinoblastoma.

1 Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary shall, after
2 public consultations, prepare and disseminate the Implementing Rules and
3 Regulations of this Act not later than six (6) months from the approval of this
4 Act.

5
6 Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such
7 amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the
8 National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the establishment of a
9 retinoblastoma public awareness and prevention program shall be included in the
10 annual appropriation of the Department of Health.

11
12 Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
13 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
14 provisions hereof.

15
16 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
17 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are
18 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

19
20 Sec. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
21 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
22 circulation.

Approved,