

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

*19 JAN 16 P3:20

RECEIVED



SENATE
S.B. NO. 2153

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A STUDY AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON THE
CASES OF HEPATITIS C AMONG EMERGENCY RESPONSE EMPLOYEES**

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 consciousness among them.”

According to the World Health Organization, Hepatitis C is a liver disease that causes both acute and chronic hepatitis that ranges in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious lifelong illness. The hepatitis C virus is a bloodborne virus and the most common modes of infection are through exposure to small quantities of blood. This may happen through injection drug use, unsafe injection practices, unsafe health care, and the transfusion of unscreened blood and blood products.

The proposed bill seeks to protect and promote the health and welfare of emergency response employees by establishing a study that will determine the prevalence of hepatitis C and create demonstration projects in order to provide training, testing, and treatment.

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


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

'19 JAN 16 P 3:20

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

NEEDS

SENATE
S.B. NO. 2153

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A STUDY AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON THE
CASES OF HEPATITIS C AMONG EMERGENCY RESPONSE EMPLOYEES**

*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 “Emergency
2 Response Employees Disease Protection Act.”

3
4 Sec. 2. *Study and Demonstration Projects Regarding Cases of Hepatitis C*
5 *among certain emergency response employees.* –

6 (A) Study Regarding Prevalence Among Certain Emergency
7 Response Employees –

8 (1) *In General.* – The Secretary of Health (referred to in
9 this Act as the “Secretary”), in consultation with the
10 Secretary of Labor and Employment, shall conduct a
11 study to determine –

12 (a) an estimate of the prevalence of hepatitis
13 C among designated emergency response
14 employees; and

15 (b) the likely means through which such
16 employees become infected with such
17 disease in the course of performing their
18 duties as such employees.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

- (2) *Designated Emergency Response Employees.* – For purpose of this section, the term “designated emergency response employees” means firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians.
- (3) *Submission of Completion Report to Congress.* – The Secretary shall commence the study under paragraph (1) not later than ninety (90) days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Not later than one (1) year after such date, the Secretary shall complete the study and submit to the Congress a report describing the findings of the study and the recommendations of the Secretary for administrative or legislative initiatives regarding the activities described in paragraph (1).
- (4) *Demonstration Projects Regarding Training and Treatment.* – The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall carry out each of the following activities:
 - (a) Training designated emergency response employees in minimizing the risk of infection with hepatitis C in performing their duties as such employees;
 - (b) Testing such employees for infection with the disease; and
 - (c) Treating the employees for the disease.
- (5) *Evaluation.* – The Secretary shall provide for an evaluation of each demonstration project under paragraph (1) in order to determine the extent to which the project has been effective in carrying out the activities described in such paragraph.

1

2 *Sec. 3. Authorization of Appropriations.* – The appropriation of such sums
3 as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized.

4

5 *Sec. 4. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid
6 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise
7 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

8

9 *Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
10 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
11 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions this Act is hereby repealed,
12 modified or amended accordingly.

13

14 *Sec. 6. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
15 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,