

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

SENATE



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

S. No. 662

'19 JUL 22 P 2 :09

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR. 

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AN ACT  
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE MANDATORY BASIC IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING A SYSTEM IN THE DETERMINATION OF OTHER TYPES OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10152, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011"

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

True to the saying that, "prevention is better than cure," one effective way to promote health is the prevention of diseases through immunization. The World Health Organization (WHO) has emphasized the importance of immunization as "a proven way to prevent and eliminate life-threatening infectious diseases" and it "also contributes to economic growth". Republic Act No. 10152, otherwise known as the "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011" was enacted to mandate the State to "adopt a comprehensive, mandatory and sustainable immunization program for vaccine-preventable diseases for all infants and children."

However, a press release issued by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) last 25 April 2019 in relation to the observance of the World Immunization

Week stated that, "an estimated 2.9 million Filipino children are unvaccinated and remain vulnerable to life-threatening diseases such as measles, rubella, and polio."

While increasing the coverage of the immunization program remains a challenge, one concern that has to be addressed is the insufficient list of mandatory basic immunization to completely protect the infants and children from life-threatening diseases.

Every year, a group of private organizations namely Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) and the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP), together with the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination (PFV) develops and releases the Childhood Immunization Schedule for the Philippines. For 2019, as in the previous years, the schedule included Rotavirus, Japanese Encephalitis (JE), Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

This measure seeks amend Republic Act No. 10152 by including in the list of mandatory basic immunization the vaccine for Rotavirus, JE, PCV, and HPV. The inclusion of the vaccines in the list will be very beneficial not only for the health of infants and children, but also for the mothers who can avail of it for free in any government hospital or health center, instead of paying for them in private clinics or hospitals at an expensive price.

This bill also mandates the Formulary Executive Council (FEC) and the National Immunization Committee (NIC) to make recommendations to the Secretary of Health as to other types of vaccines that should be included in the list, and to provide technical support for the National Immunization Program of the Department of Health (DOH).

Further, this proposed measure requires the DOH to submit an annual report to the President and the Congress.

This measure was already approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress and remained pending in the Senate Committee on Health and Demography.

In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10152, otherwise known as the  
2 "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011", is hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 "Sec. 3. Coverage. – The mandatory basic  
5 immunization for all infants and children provided under this  
6 Act shall cover the following vaccine-preventable diseases:

- 7 "(a) Tuberculosis;  
8 "(b) Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis;  
9 "(c) Poliomyelitis;  
10 "(d) Measles;  
11 "(e) Mumps;  
12 "(f) Rubella or German measles;  
13 "(g) Hepatitis-B;  
14 "(h) H. Influenza type B (HIB); [~~and~~]

1                   “(I) ROTAVIRUS;  
2                   “(J) JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS;  
3                   “(K) PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE  
4                   (PCV);  
5                   “(L) HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV); AND  
6                   “[(i)] (M) Such other types as may be determined by  
7                   the Secretary of Health in a department circular [-]  
8                   **UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE**  
9                   **FORMULARY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC) AND**  
10                   **THE NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION COMMITTEE**  
11                   **(NIC) CREATED AS AN ADVISORY GROUP TO**  
12                   **PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE**  
13                   **SETTING OF A DOH POLICY DIRECTION ON THE**  
14                   **NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (NIP),**  
15                   **AND AFTER SEPARATE OR JOINT PUBLIC**  
16                   **HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON**  
17                   **HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY OF THE SENATE AND**  
18                   **THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF**  
19                   **REPRESENTATIVES: PROVIDED, THAT WHEN**  
20                   **THERE IS A PANDEMIC AND WHEN THE**  
21                   **CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT IN**  
22                   **SESSION, THE SAID PUBLIC HEARINGS NEED**  
23                   **NOT BE CONDUCTED.**

24                   “ X X X.”

25                   Sec. 2. A new section to be numbered Section 7 is hereby added after Section  
26 6 of the same Act, to read as follows:

27                   **“SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT. – THE DOH SHALL SUBMIT**  
28                   **TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE**  
29                   **PHILIPPINES, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
30                   **AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND THE HOUSE OF**  
31                   **REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON OR**  
32                   **BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR, OR**

1                   **UPON THE REQUEST OF ANY OF THE AFORESAID**  
2                   **COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS, A REPORT GIVING A**  
3                   **DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE STATUS OF THE**  
4                   **IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.”**

5                   Sec. 2. Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of the same Act are hereby renumbered  
6 as Sections 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively.

7                   Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
8 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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11                   *Approved,*