

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

5 OCT 13 2016

SENATE
S.B. No. 2144

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Retinoblastoma is a cancer which develops in the cells of the retina, the light sensitive layer of the eye. It may occur at any age but it usually occurs in younger children.


According to Retinoblastoma International, ninety percent (90%) of retinoblastoma patients have no family history of the disease and only ten percent (10%) have other family members with retinoblastoma. Sixty percent (60%) of cases involve only one eye (unilateral) while forty percent (40%) affect both eyes.

If untreated, retinoblastoma is almost fatal. It can spread outside of the eye to the brain, the central nervous system and the bones.

Early diagnosis and intervention is critical to the successful treatment of this disease. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of children stricken with this disease die, mostly from developing countries. These children were diagnosed very late and have already developed tumors outside of the eye. Given this information, it is incumbent upon the State to take necessary precautions. The Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 states that:

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. x x x

This cancer is curable if caught early enough. Thus, this bill directs the Department of Health to increase awareness on retinoblastoma and to educate parents on the early warning signs of this disease.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
agf

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5 OCT 13 21:59

SENATE
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AN ACT
TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A
RETINOBLASTOMA PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act may be known as the “Retinoblastoma Awareness and Prevention Act of 2005.”

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

SECTION 3. *Retinoblastoma Awareness and Prevention Program.* – The Secretary of Health shall establish a retinoblastoma awareness and prevention program that shall include –

- (a) public and community awareness programs concerning the prevention and identification of retinoblastoma and the provision of services for children, adolescents, and adults with retinoblastoma;
- (b) the development and placement of public service announcements to educate the public about retinoblastoma; and
- (c) the development of strategies to educate parents about retinoblastoma, early warning signs, and risk factors based on the best available medical information and to encourage parents to discuss retinoblastoma with their child's physician.

SECTION 4. *Appropriation.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the establishment of a retinoblastoma public awareness and prevention program shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Health.

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

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decree or issuance, executive orders, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule and regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,