

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 JUL -4 A10:03

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 978

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The rising pharmaceutical costs and prices greatly contributes to the worsening health condition of Filipinos, especially those belonging to the middle and lower classes of society, because they could no longer afford the prices of pharmaceutical drugs being sold in the market. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that they are often left without any choice in buying the prescribed drug even if the same costs beyond their buying power as they have no information as to the alternative drugs with relatively cheaper price than that prescribed to them.

In view of this, the attached bill seeks to establish a Prescription Drug Retail Price Registry" in the Department of Health for the purpose of making retail price information for the 150 most frequently prescribed prescription drugs in the country readily available to consumers. The purpose of this bill is to establish a registry that would make available all information regarding the drug retail price being charged by various drug retailers in this country.


MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE "PRESCRIPTION DRUG RETAIL PRICE REGISTRY"**

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

SECTION 1. There is established the "Prescription Drug Retail Price Registry" in the Department of Health for the purpose of making retail price information for the 150 most frequently prescribed prescription drugs in the country readily available to consumers.

SECTION 2. The registry shall include information from drug retail price lists reported to the Secretary of the Department by pharmacies and shall be updated by the department at least weekly to reflect the most current information reported to the Secretary by pharmacies.

The registry shall be organized by the Secretary in a format that is conducive to review and comparison by consumers of prescription drug retail prices charged by pharmacies in each city or municipality within the country, and shall include the name and address of each pharmacy.

SECTION 3. The Department shall make available electronically on its Internet website in English the information contained in the registry, and shall make copies of the information available to consumers upon request by means of a toll-free telephone service operated by the department.

The information made available on the Internet website shall:

1. be organized to meet the requirements under the law and be designed so that the consumer may download and print the displayed information;

2. include Internet web links to other governmental information resources that provide information relating to the regulation of prescription drugs and health care coverage and pharmaceutical assistance programs; and

3. contain clearly understandable language that is designed to assist consumers in understanding the content of, and how to access, the information made available on the website pursuant to this section.

SECTION 4. The Department shall prepare at least annually, and shall make available in both printed and electronic form to each pharmacy practice site in the State without charge, a list of the 150 most frequently prescribed prescription drugs that includes the usual dosages prescribed for each drug.

Each pharmacy in the country shall compile a drug retail price list, which contains the names of the drugs on the list provided by the Department pursuant to preceding paragraph and the retail price for each drug on the list charged at that pharmacy and shall make the drug retail price list available to customers upon request.

- (1) The drug retail price list shall include a notice that states as follows: "*Consult your pharmacist for the selection of the most economical drug product available to fill your prescription.*"

- (2) The pharmacy shall post a sign that notifies customers of the availability of the drug retail price list in a conspicuous location that is: at or adjacent to the place where prescriptions are presented for compounding and dispensing; in the waiting area for customers; or in the area where prescribed drugs are delivered.

- (3) The pharmacy shall report to the Secretary, on a form and in a manner and according to a schedule established by the commissioner, the information included in its drug retail price list. The pharmacy shall update the information that it reports to the Secretary at least weekly.

SECTION 5. The provisions of this Act shall not be construed to prevent a pharmacy from changing or charging the current retail price at any time,

provided that the listed price is updated at least weekly to reflect the new retail price.

As used in this section, "retail price" means the actual price to be paid by a retail purchaser to a pharmacy for a drug on the retail price list at the listed dosage.

SECTION 6. The Secretary in consultation with the Bureau of Food and Drugs shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this section.

SECTION 7. In the event that any provision or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional by the courts, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. All laws, orders, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,