

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 137-8 25

SENATE
S.B. 1826

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

The 1987 Philippine Constitution is known for its strong provisions on social justice. In fact, it is the very hallmark of the present fundamental law. Social justice includes the earnest delivery of basic services to the people, especially the underprivileged who needs it most.

This bill, more than a mechanism to fulfill the fundamental guarantee on the citizens' right to health, is a legislation honouring social justice. And it is through the carrying out of a comprehensive program of free vaccination and immunization of Filipino infants and children.

This legislation's significance is mirrored more considering that very recently, it was reported that about 500,000 Filipino infants annually remain unvaccinated and vulnerable to preventable illnesses like measles, neonatal tetanus, polio and hepatitis B.

The following factual information deserve attention and rationalizes why this legislation deserves to pass soonest:

1. Vaccination for measles is needed as the disease kills. Every infant needs to be vaccinated against measles at the age of nine (9) months or as soon as possible after nine (9) months as part of routine infant vaccination schedule.
2. An early hepatitis B vaccine reduces the chance of being infected and becoming a carrier. It prevents liver cirrhosis which are more likely to develop if infected with hepa B early in life. Likewise, the statistics indicate that about 9,000 infants die of complication of hepa B yearly.
3. DPT vaccinations are needed for the reduction of severe pertussis sickness amongst children.

This bill mandates the Department of Health and all other medical or health institutions to conduct and make available immunization and vaccination at a faster frequency and access. At present, whilst immunization and vaccination

are done all over the country, it is on a time-based: quarterly in far-flung areas and monthly in barangay health stations.

Immediate enactment of this bill is recommended highly.



MANNY VILLAR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
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AN ACT
PROMOTING THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
PROVISIONS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH,
THROUGH THE STRENGTHENING OF A COMPREHENSIVE FREE
VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO
INFANTS AND CHILDREN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. The citizen's right to health is a fundamental guarantee enshrined in the supreme law. It is a declared policy thus that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Recognizing that vaccinations and immunizations for children have become expensive and has not been accessible for poor families, it is hereby declared that the same should be made available for free administration and comprehensively adopted as a program of social justice.

Section 2. The Department of Health through all government hospitals, its satellite offices, accredited government clinics and medical institutions shall provide for free the following vaccination and immunizations for infants and children:

- a. Hepatitis B;
- b. DPT – diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough);
- c. H. Influenza type b;
- d. Polio (salk injected);
- e. Rotavirus (diarrhea and gastroenteritis)
- f. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German measles);
- g. Varicella (chicken pox)

Provided, That exemptions may be chosen by the parents on account of religious belief that prohibits vaccinations and immunizations, or for medical reasons and which is certified by a licensed medical practitioner, or for any other valid reason that may be advanced by the parents of the infant or child, as

necessary. Provided, further, that a certain day of the week must be devoted for immunization and vaccination in all local government unit health centers.

Section 3. The Department of Health in consultation with the national association of pediatrics and recognized experts of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and peoples' organizations and academe on child health and care, children's rights and parental guidance, shall issue the relevant rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. The amount of one billion pesos (P 1,000,000,000.00) annually to implement the provisions of this Act covering the comprehensive free immunization and vaccination of children shall be included and incorporated in the budget of the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act.

One percent (1 %) of all earnings made by government-owned and controlled corporations shall be collected and to form part of the fund that may be used for the purpose.

Section 5. If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 6. All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,