## FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC ) OF THE PHILIPPINES ) First Regular Session )

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## SENATE S. No. **1912**

## Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Studies by the United States Center for Disease Control show that most people carry in their bodies concentrations of a family of synthetic chemicals known as phthalates. Phthalates, or phthalate esters, are a group of chemical compounds that are mainly used as plasticizers or substances added to plastics to increase their flexibility. They are chiefly used to turn polyvinyl chloride from a hard plastic into a flexible plastic.<sup>\*</sup>

Phthalates are commonly found in plastics, pesticides, and personal care products like shampoos, soaps, and makeup. Exposure to phthalates has been linked to malformed sex organs in male lab animals. Alarmingly enough, a recent study revealed that there is a link between mothers exposed to phthalates and genital birth defects in male infants.

As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Thus, this bill seeks to avoid the hazardous effects of phthalates on children by prohibiting the sale of toys and other articles intended for children three (3) years of age and below.

Miriam Defensor santiago

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>•</sup> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phthalates

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# SENATE S. No. **1912**

	Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago
1 2 3	AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF TOYS AND OTHER ARTICLES CONTAINING PHTHALATES TO CHILDREN THREE (3) YEARS OF AGE AND BELOW
4 5	Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:
6	SECTIION 1. Short Title This Act shall be known as the "Phthalate-Free Toy Act of
7	2007."
8	SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy It is a policy of the State to protect the physical,
9	moral and social well-being of children. Towards this end, the State shall prohibit the sale of toys
10	containing phthalates to children three (3) years of age or below.
11	SECTION 3. Definition of Phthalates For the purposes of this Act, the term
12	"phthalates" means dialkyl or alkyl aryl esters of 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid including, but not
13	limited to, dimethyl phthalate, diethyl phthalate, diallyl phthalate, di-n-propyl phthalate, di-n-
14	butyl phthalate, diisobutyl phthalate, butyl cyclohexyl phthalate, di-n-pentyl phthalate,
15	dicyclohexyl phthalate, butyl benzyl phthalate, di-n-hexyl phthalate, diisohexyl phthalate,
16	diisoheptyl phthalate, butyl decyl phthalate, di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, di(n-octyl) phthalate,
17	diisooctyl phthalate, n-octyl n-decyl phthalate, diisononyl phthalate, diisodecyl phthalate,
18	diundecyl phthalate, diisoundecyl phthalate, ditridecyl phthalate, and diisotridecyl phthalate.
19	SECTION 4. Prohibition on the Sale of Toys Containing Phthalates; Penalties. – On or
20	after one hundred and twenty (120) days from the passage of this Act, no toy or article intended
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Any person found in violation of this Act shall be punished by a penalty of *prision correctional*, or a fine ranging from Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, taking into consideration the circumstances of the case.

5 If the offender is a corporation, trust or firm, partnership, association or any other entity, 6 the penalty of imprisonment shall be imposed on the entity's responsible officers, including, but 7 not limited to, the president, vice-president, chief executive officer, general manager, managing 8 director or partner directly responsible therefor.

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

11 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive 12 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent 13 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

16 Approved,