


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

8 MAY -7 1977

SENATE
S. No. **2259**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides that:

Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Mercury is an element which is highly toxic to the human nervous system and can cause permanent impairment of speech, hearing, movement and vision even when exposure occurs at very low levels. A very common use of mercury has been fever thermometers. Mercury fever thermometers are easily broken and the result is exposure to mercury. A home fever thermometer contains 1.59 grams of mercury.¹

Some hospitals in the United States such as Beth Israel Medical Center in NYC and Strong Memorial have instituted mercury-free policies, replacing various sources of mercury with alternatives. There are a number of alternatives to mercury fever thermometers, including electronic battery operated and infrared aural thermometers.²

To prevent instances of unnecessary exposure to mercury caused by broken mercury fever thermometers, this bills aims to regulate the sale and purchase of mercury thermometers.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A01563>

² *Ibid*

1 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* – I Any person who violates the provisions of this Act
2 shall be subject to a penalty of not less than One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) nor
3 more than Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).

4 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held
5 invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

6 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive order or rules and
7 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
9 after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

10 Approved.

/jps