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SENATE

S. NO. 391

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

Explanatory Note

Section 15 under Article II of the Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. In line with this, national awareness and local outreach programs are needed to encourage the public to seek and expect healthy housing, to think about housing hazards more comprehensively, to recognize problems, and to address them in a preventative, effective, and low-cost manner.

Moreover, an expanded research on housing health hazards, spearheaded by the Department of Health, is essential as housing-related health hazards are often complex, with causes and solutions often not readily or immediately recognized by residents, property owners, or the general public. Evidence-based, cost-effective, practical, and widely accessible methods for the assessment and control of housing-related health hazards are necessary in order to prevent housing-related injuries and illnesses, including cancer, carbon monoxide poisoning, burns, falls, rodent bites, childhood lead poisoning, and asthma.

Thus, this bill aims to:

- raise awareness of infectious diseases like tuberculosis and respiratory diseases;
- improve access to health and social services; and,
- reduce the risk of housing-related health problems.

Further, this bill seeks to emphasize cost-effective approaches and market-based incentives to make homes healthier and safer without detracting from their affordability. This proposed measure aims to improve research, enhance the capacity of government programs, and expand national outreach efforts.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

1 (1) *In General*- The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) shall evaluate the health
2 effects of housing-related health hazards for which limited research or understanding of causes
3 or associations exists.

4 (2) *Criteria*- In carrying out the evaluation under Section (3) (1), the DOH Secretary shall--

5 (a) determine the housing-related health hazards for which there exists limited
6 understanding of health effects;

7 (b) prioritize the housing-related health hazards to be evaluated;

8 (c) coordinate research plans in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts; and

9 (d) evaluate the health risks, routes and pathways of exposure, and human health effects
10 that result from indoor exposure to biological, physical, and chemical housing-related
11 health hazards, including carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, common
12 residential and garden pesticides, and factors that sensitize individuals to asthma.

13

14 ***SEC. 4. Evidence-Based, Cost-Effective Methods for Assessment, Prevention, And***
15 ***Control of Housing-Related Health Hazards.-***

16 (1) *In General*- The Chairman of Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
17 (HUDCC) shall, in consultation with the Director of the Environmental and Occupational Health
18 Office (EOHO), to implement studies by the Department of Health, of the assessment,
19 prevention, and control of housing-related health hazards.

20 (2) *Study*- The HUDCC Chairman, in consultation with other government agencies, shall initiate:

21 (a) for fiscal years 2011 through 2015, at least one (1) study per year of the methods for
22 assessment, prevention, or control of housing-related health hazards that provide for--

23 (i) instrumentation, monitoring, and data collection related to such assessment or
24 control methods;

25 (ii) study of the ability of the assessment and monitoring methods to predict
26 health risks and the effect of control methods on health outcomes; and

1 (iii) the evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of such assessment or control
2 methods; and

3 (b) no fewer than four (4) studies, which may run concurrently.

4 (3) *Criteria for Study*- Each study conducted pursuant to Section (3)(2) shall, if the HUDCC
5 Chairman deems it scientifically appropriate, evaluate the assessment or control method in each
6 of the regions of the Philippines, including--

7 (1) a hot, dry climate;

8 (2) a hot, humid climate;

9 (3) a cold climate; and

10 (4) a temperate climate (including a climate with cold winters and humid summers).

11 (d) *Authority of the Chairman of HUDCC*- The HUDCC Chairman may award contracts or
12 interagency agreements to carry out the studies required under this section.

13
14 **SEC. 5. *Study on Sustainable Building Features and Indoor Environmental Quality in***
15 ***Existing Housing.***-

16 (1) *In General*- The DOH Secretary and the HUDCC Chairman shall, in consultation with other
17 government agencies, conduct a detailed study of how sustainable building features, such as
18 energy efficiency, in existing housing affect the quality of the indoor environment, the
19 prevalence of housing-related health hazards, and the health of occupants.

20 (2) *Contents*- The study required under Section (5)(1) shall--

21 (a) investigate the effect of sustainable building features on the quality of the indoor
22 environment and the prevalence of housing-related health hazards;

23 (b) investigate how sustainable building features, such as energy efficiency, are
24 influencing the health of occupants of such housing; and

25 (c) ensure that the effects of the indoor environmental quality are evaluated
26 comprehensively.

1 **SEC. 6. Data Collection On Housing-Related Health Hazards.-**

2 (1) *Expansion of Monitoring-* The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural
3 Resources (DENR) shall expand the current indoor environmental monitoring efforts in order to
4 establish baseline levels of indoor chemical pollutants and their sources, including routes and
5 pathways, in homes.

6 (2) *Data Evaluation and Collection System-*

7 (a) *Data Evaluation-* The NCDPC Director shall, in consultation with the HUDCC
8 Chairman and the DENR Secretary, determine the data and resources needed to establish
9 and maintain a healthy housing data collection system.

10 (b) *Data Collection System-*

11 (i) *In General-* The NCDPC Director, based upon the needs determined under
12 Section (6)(3)(a), shall carry out the development and operation of a healthy
13 housing data collection system that--

14 (A) draws upon existing data collection systems, including those systems at
15 other government agencies, to the maximum extent practicable;

16 (B) improves upon the ability of researchers to assess links between housing
17 and health characteristics; and

18 (C) incorporates the input of potential data users, to the maximum extent
19 practicable.

20 (ii) *Criteria-* The data collection system required to be developed shall--

21 (A) pilot subject areas to evaluate for overall data quality and utility, level of
22 data collection, feasibility of additional data collection, and privacy
23 considerations;

24 (B) develop common assessment tools and integrated database applications
25 and, where possible, standardize analysis techniques;

- 1 (C) develop mechanisms to facilitate ongoing multidisciplinary interagency
2 involvement;
3 (D) create a clearinghouse to monitor potential data sources; and
4 (E) develop public use datasets.

5
6 **CHAPTER II**
7 **CAPACITY TO REDUCE HEALTH HAZARDS IN HOUSING**
8

9 **SEC. 7. *Housing And Urban Development Coordinating Council Program Capacity***

10 ***On Housing-Related Health Hazards.-***

11 (1) *In General-* The HUDCC Chairman shall, in cooperation with other government agencies--

- 12 (a) develop improved methods for evaluating health hazards in housing;
13 (b) develop improved methods for preventing and reducing health hazards in housing;
14 (c) support the development of objective measures for what is considered a 'healthy'
15 residential environment;
16 (d) evaluate the long-term cost effectiveness of a healthy housing approach;
17 (e) promote the incorporation of healthy housing principles into ongoing practices and
18 systems, including housing codes, rehabilitation specifications, and maintenance plans;
19 (f) promote the incorporation of health considerations into green and energy-efficient
20 construction and rehabilitation;
21 (g) promote the use of healthy housing principles in post-disaster environments, such as
22 the dissemination of information on safe rehabilitation and recovery practices;
23 (h) improve the dissemination of healthy housing information, including best practices, to
24 partners, grantees, the private sector, and the public; and
25 (i) promote national and local level healthy housing efforts, such as the collaboration of
26 national and local health, housing, and environment agencies, and the private sector.

1 (2) *Authority of the Secretary*- The HUDCC Chairman may award grants, contracts, or
2 interagency agreements to carry out the activities required under this section.

3

4 **SEC. 8. *Environmental Protection Agency Program Capacity On Housing-Related***
5 ***Health Hazards.-***

6 (1) *In General*- The DENR Secretary shall address health hazards in the home environment, with
7 particular attention to children, the elderly, and families with limited resources.

8 (2) *Required Actions of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment*- The DENR
9 Secretary, in consultation with other relevant offices, shall--

10 (a) monitor standards to ensure that these standards are protective of elevated risks faced
11 by children or the elderly;

12 (b) develop policies to address aggregate, cumulative, and simultaneous exposures
13 experienced by children and the elderly, with particular attention to hazards in the home
14 environment;

15 (c) coordinate healthy housing efforts across the DENR;

16 (d) promote the incorporation of healthy housing principles into ongoing practices and
17 systems, including the work of the national and local environmental departments in the
18 country;

19 (e) encourage and expand healthy housing educational efforts to partners, grantees, the
20 private sector, environmental professionals, and the public; and

21 (f) designate not less than one (1) representative per region, to coordinate children's
22 environmental health activities, including healthy housing efforts, with national and local
23 environmental departments in the country.

24

25 **SEC. 9. *Effective Training on Housing-Related Health Hazards.-***

26 (1) *Training*- The DOH Secretary, acting through the NCDPC Director, shall--

- 1 (a) train lead poisoning prevention program staff in healthy housing principles;
- 2 (b) deliver training and technical assistance in the identification and control of housing-
- 3 related health hazards to staff of national and local public health departments, health care
- 4 providers, other health care delivery systems and professionals, and community-based
- 5 organizations; and
- 6 (c) provide resources and incentives to national and local health departments to support
- 7 the wide availability of free or low-cost training to prevent and control housing-related
- 8 health hazards.

9 (2) *Department of Agriculture-*

10 (a) *Technical Assistance-*

11 (i) *In General-* The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall

12 establish a competitive grant program to promote education and outreach on

13 housing-related health hazards.

14 (ii) *Eligible Applicants-* The DA Secretary may award grants, on a competitive

15 basis, for education and extension services.

16 (iii) *Criteria for Grants-* Grants under this subsection shall be awarded to address

17 housing-related health hazards through translation of the latest research into easy-

18 to-use guidelines, development and dissemination of outreach materials, and

19 operation of training and education programs to build capacity at a local level.

20 (b) *Expanded Training-* The DA Secretary shall expand training and outreach activities to

21 include structural integrated pest management topics.

22 (c) *Coverage Of Lead-Based Paint And Other Health Hazards-* The DA Secretary shall

23 ensure that food and nutrition subject matter content for adults and youth includes

24 effective information about preventing exposure to lead-based paint, pests, pesticides,

25 mold, and, where there is sufficient data, about preventing exposure to other biological or

26 chemical food safety hazards in and around the home.

1 (3) Evaluation- Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the NCDPC
2 Director and the DA Secretary shall evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the training programs
3 authorized under Section (9)(1) and prepare a report, the results of which shall be posted on the
4 website of each agency.

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6 **SEC. 10. Enforcement of Lead Disclosure Rule.-**

7 (1) *Authority of the DA Secretary-*

8 (a) *Investigations-* The DA Secretary is authorized to conduct such investigations as may
9 be necessary to administer and carry out his duties under this Act. The Secretary is
10 authorized to administer oaths and require by subpoena the production of documents, and
11 the attendance and testimony of witnesses as the Secretary deems advisable.

12 (b) *Enforcement-* Any regular court in the Philippines within the jurisdiction of which an
13 inquiry is carried, on application of the city prosecutor, may, in the case of contumacy or
14 refusal to permit entry under this section or to obey a subpoena of the DA Secretary
15 issued under this section, issue an order requiring such entry or such compliance
16 therewith. Any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a
17 contempt thereof.

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CHAPTER III
EDUCATION ON HEALTH HAZARDS IN HOUSING

SEC. 11. Healthy Home Seal Of Approval Program.-

23 (1) *Establishment-* There is established within the DENR a voluntary labeling program to
24 evaluate consumer products intended for home use and housing materials to determine their
25 efficacy in fostering a healthy home environment. This shall be known as the Healthy Home Seal
26 of Approval.

27 (2) *Duties-*

1 (a) *In General*- The DENR Secretary shall, in consultation with the HUDCC Chairman
2 and the DOH Secretary -

3 (i) promote the Healthy Home Seal of Approval for consumer products and
4 materials, and for criteria for housing as the preferred options in the marketplace
5 for achieving optimum indoor environmental quality and maximum occupant
6 health;

7 (ii) work to enhance public awareness of the Healthy Home Seal of Approval for
8 consumer products and materials, and for criteria for housing, including by
9 providing special outreach to small businesses;

10 (iii) conduct research and provide sound science and methods to evaluate
11 products, materials, and criteria for housing that preserves the integrity of the
12 Healthy Home Seal of Approval for consumer products and materials, and for
13 criteria for housing label;

14 (iv) regularly update the requirements for the Healthy Home Seal of Approval for
15 products and materials, and for criteria for housing;

16 (v) solicit comments from interested parties prior to establishing or revising a
17 Healthy Home Seal of Approval, including a change to a product category,
18 material category, specification, or criterion (or prior to effective dates for any
19 such product category, material category, specification, or criterion);

20 (vi) on adoption of a new or revised product category, material category,
21 specification, or criterion in a Healthy Home Seal of Approval, provide
22 reasonable notice to interested parties of any changes (including effective dates)
23 in product categories, material categories, specifications, or criteria, along with--

24 (A) an explanation of the changes; and

25 (B) as appropriate, responses to comments submitted by interested
26 parties; and

1 (vii) provide appropriate lead time (which shall be 270 days, unless the DENR
2 Secretary specifies otherwise) prior to the applicable effective date for a new or a
3 significant revision to a Healthy Home Seal of Approval, including a change to a
4 product category, material category, specification, or criterion.
5

6 **SEC. 12. Outreach On Health Hazards In Housing.-**

7 (1) *In General-* The DENR Secretary shall provide education and outreach to the general public
8 on the--

9 (a) environmental health risks experienced by the elderly; and

10 (b) low-cost methods for addressing such risks.

11 (2) *Food Quality Protection-*

12 (a) *In General-* The HUDCC Chairman shall award funds for a Health Hazards Outreach
13 competitive grant program.

14 (b) *Eligible Applicants-* Eligible applicants for a grant under Section (12)(2)(a) are
15 national nonprofit organizations, and national and local entities, including community-
16 based organizations and government health, environmental, and housing departments.

17 (c) *Eligible Activities-* Funds awarded under this subsection may be used to--

18 (i) document the need for healthy housing assessments or controls in a given
19 community or communities;

20 (ii) perform outreach and education with a community-level focus; and

21 (iii) develop policy and capacity building approaches.

22 (d) *Collaboration with Local Institutions-* Eligible applicants under this subsection are
23 encouraged to--

24 (i) forge partnerships among national or local level government and nonprofit
25 entities; and

1 (ii) improve the incorporation of healthy housing principles into existing State and
2 local systems where possible.

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4 **SEC. 13. National Healthy Housing Media Campaign.-**

5 (1) *In General-* The HUDCC Chairman, the DOH Secretary, and the DENR Secretary shall
6 establish and maintain a national healthy housing media campaign.

7 (2) *Requirements Of Campaign-* The HUDCC Chairman, the DOH Secretary, and the DENR
8 Secretary shall--

9 (a) determine the design of the national healthy housing media campaign, including by--

10 (i) identifying the target audience;

11 (ii) formulating and packaging unified messages regarding--

12 (A) how best to assess health hazards in the home; and

13 (B) how best to prevent and control health hazards in the home;

14 (iii) identifying ideal mechanisms for dissemination;

15 (iv) distributing responsibilities and establishing an ongoing system of
16 coordination; and

17 (v) incorporating input from the target audience of the campaign;

18 (b) carry out the operation of a national healthy housing media campaign that--

19 (i) draws upon existing outreach and public education efforts to the maximum
20 extent practicable;

21 (ii) provides critical healthy housing information in a concise and simple manner;
22 and

23 (iii) uses multiple media strategies to reach the maximum number of people in the
24 target audience as possible; and

25 (c) evaluate the performance of the campaign, including by--

26 (i) tracking the accomplishments of the campaign;

- 1 (ii) identifying changes in healthy housing awareness, healthy housing activities,
2 and the healthy housing conditions among the target audience of the campaign;
3 (iii) assessing the cost-effectiveness of the campaign in achieving the goals of the
4 campaign; and
5 (iv) preparing a final evaluation report within one (1) year of the close of the
6 campaign, the results of which shall be posted on the website of each such
7 agency.

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9 **SEC. 14. Authorization of Appropriations.**- The amount necessary to carry out the
10 provisions of this Act shall be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act. Funds
11 appropriated for this Act shall remain available until expended.

12
13 **SEC.15. Repealing Clause.** Any laws, decrees, ordinances or rules and regulations which
14 are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

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16 **SEC. 16. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
17 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,