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SENATE

S. NO. 397

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. It is in this light that this measure seeks to declare the month of February as the awareness and prevention month for liver cancer and hepatitis-B.

As per the studies of the Department of Health and the Philippine Cancer Society, liver cancer is the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) most common cancer among men and sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) among women. The most important risk factor associated with liver cancer is **cirrhosis**, a condition that precedes 80 percent of all liver cancers. The most common cause of cirrhosis is chronic hepatitis B, a condition that afflicts about 10-12 percent of all Filipinos. Chronic Hepatitis B is the main reason liver cancer incidence in the Philippines is high. Other possible causes of cirrhosis are hepatitis C infection **and** alcoholism.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, by declaring February of every year as Liver Cancer and Hepatitis-B Awareness and Prevention Month, this measure seeks to accomplish the following: (1) to raise awareness of liver cancer among the general populace by directing information to the public sphere on the condition, risk factors, symptoms and how it can be prevented; (2) to provide liver cancer patients and their supporting caregivers with information on care and treatment options; (3) to share and exchange updated knowledge on hepatitis B, liver cancer and treatment options with general practitioners and specialists. It is hoped that this campaign will help redress the high incidence of those afflicted with the aforementioned illnesses in the country.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV

Senator

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<sup>1</sup> Information retrieved from <http://www.jpsimbunan.com/2008/09/13/september-is-liver-cancer-awareness-month-in-the-philippines/>. Retrieved from:

10 JUL -6 1966

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AN ACT  
DECLARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS "LIVER CANCER  
AND HEPATITIS-B AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH" AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "*Liver Cancer and*  
2 *Hepatitis-B Awareness and Prevention Month Act*".

3  
4           **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the  
5 right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, adopt an integrated and  
6 comprehensive approach to health development, establish and maintain an effective food and  
7 drug regulatory system, and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research  
8 responsive to the country's health needs and problems. In furtherance of this constitutional  
9 mandate, this Act aims to declare the month of February of every year as the awareness and  
10 prevention month for liver cancer and hepatitis-B.

11  
12           **SEC. 3. *Awareness Month.*** – The month of February shall be designated as the "Liver  
13 Cancer and Hepatitis-B Awareness and Prevention Month".

14  
15           **SEC. 4. *Public Education and Awareness Program.*** – To ensure the meaningful  
16 observance of the month as herein declared, a comprehensive public education and awareness

1 program shall be undertaken on the communicable disease of hepatitis-B. The program shall  
2 specifically discuss the causes, transmission, consequences, diagnoses, treatments and the  
3 prevention of hepatitis-B, including the need for immediate infant immunization and the  
4 indispensability of observing the correct schedule and dosage, as well as the importance of child  
5 and adult vaccination, for a holistic approach in battling the virus. Moreover, updates and  
6 breakthroughs regarding treatment of the disease shall be discussed among specialists and  
7 general practitioners through forums.

8

9 **SEC. 5. *Interagency and Multi-Sectoral Effort.*** – The Department of Health on the part  
10 of the national government, and the cities and municipalities on the part of local governments  
11 shall lead the implementation of comprehensive public education and awareness program on  
12 liver cancer and hepatitis-B through a collaborative interagency and multi-sectoral effort at all  
13 levels. It shall particularly ensure widespread and expeditious public information about the  
14 benefits of compulsory routine immunization for hepatitis-B of all infants within twenty-four  
15 (24) hours after birth.

16

17 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Health shall  
18 promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of  
19 this Act within ninety (90) days from its approval.

20

21 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
23 valid and subsisting.

24

25 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,  
26 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the  
27 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

28

1           **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at  
2   least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,