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SENATE
S. No. 3002

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a country saddled with poverty such as the Philippines, women's issues as common as menopause are not given attention by the Government. As every woman undergoes this pivotal stage in her lifecycle, it is important that she is educated on the consequent physical, mental, and emotional changes so as to continuously inform her about her health and well-being. It is a fact that most women, especially indigent women who have no access to information widely available in the internet, enter into menopause without a grain of idea how to cope with its effects.

The 1987 Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides:

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

This bill requires the Department of Health and local health departments to implement a stronger information campaign to the public and health care professionals about menopause, its effects, and how women can cope throughout this period.

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT
2 ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM ON MENOPAUSE
3 AND HOW WOMEN CAN COPE WITH THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND
4 EMOTIONAL CHANGES AS A CONSEQUENCE THEREOF AND PROVIDING
5 FUNDS THEREFOR
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
8 *Congress assembled:*
9

10 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Information
11 Program on Menopause.”

12 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State shall protect and promote the
13 right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State shall
14 promote the well-being of women as they play a myriad of roles in society - as mother,
15 wife and as part of the labor force, among others. Menopause is a vital stage in every
16 woman’s life and its effects cut across a woman’s physical, mental, and emotional well-
17 being. Hence, the State must take cognizance of this important issue among middle-age
18 women and give attention to the proper education of women on this matter.

19 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
20 terms:

21 (1) “DOH” – shall refer to the Department of Health.

22 (2) “PIA” – shall refer to the Philippine Information Agency

23 (3) “Menopause” – is the day after a woman’s final period finishes. This date is
24 fixed retrospectively, once twelve (12) months have gone by with no
25 menstrual flow at all. At this point a woman is considered to be a year into

1 postmenopause, is considered to be infertile, and no longer needs to take into
2 consideration the possibility of pregnancy.

3 (4) Post menopause - all of the time in a woman's life that take place after her last
4 period ever, or more accurately, all of the time that follows the point when her
5 ovaries become inactive.

6 SECTION 4. *National Information Program on Menopause* -- The DOH shall
7 distribute to the public and to health care professionals:

8 A. Medically accurate information about menopause

- 9 1. The expected physical, mental and emotional effects of menopause.
10 2. The causes of the onset of menopause and its consequence to their
11 reproductive health.

12 B. Hormonal and other supplements to reduce the impact of menopause on
13 women's health.

14 C. The information referred to above shall be distributed

- 15 1. free of charge;
16 2. provided in English, Pilipino as well as other dialects that may be
17 appropriate for the geographic area.

18 SECTION 5. *Implementing Agency*. — The Department of Health (DOH), in
19 cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is hereby authorized and
20 directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The
21 DOH shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and
22 regulations to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

23 SECTION 6. *Appropriations*. — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
24 of this Act, are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

25 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause*. — If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid
26 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall
27 remain valid and subsisting.

1 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
2 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,
3 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
4 accordingly.

5 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
6 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

7 Approved,

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