

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

S.B. No. 138

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Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent studies have shown that Hepatitis B is endemic in the Philippines and now affects more than eight (8) million or around ten percent (10%) of Filipinos. Hepatitis B virus infection is the recognized cause of chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis, and is likewise said to be the cause of hepato-cellular carcinoma.

It is further established that Hepatitis B virus can be transmitted not only through contaminated blood or blood products, but also from an infected pregnant mother to her newborn, the probability of the latter is as high as 20 to 30 percent (20%-30%). Most Hepatitis B carriers are ignorant of their condition because symptoms are not manifest. Thus, the early prevention of the disease is still the best protection that may be given a child. Studies have shown that a routine Hepatitis B vaccination of all newborn, immediately within twenty-four (24) hours from birth, is the best opportunity to prevent unrecognized perinatal transmission of the virus and has been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Pia S. Cayetano
SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO
2006

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
JAN 31 1974

SENATE

S. No. 138

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Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

**AN ACT REQUIRING
MANDATORY BASIC IMMUNIZATION SERVICES AGAINST HEPATITIS-B FOR
INFANTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 996 AS
AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION. 1.** Section 2 of Presidential Decree No. 996 as amended, is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:
3 “SEC. 2. *Scope* – Basic Immunization services shall include (a) BCG Vaccination
4 against tuberculosis; (b) Inoculation against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; (c) Oral
5 poliomyelitis immunization; (d) Protection against measles; (e) Immunization against
6 rubella; (f) immunization against Hepatitis-B; (g) such other basic immunization services
7 for infants and children below eight years of age as determined by the Secretary of
8 Health in a department circular: *Provided*, That [newborn infants of women with
9 Hepatitis-B shall be given immunization against Hepatitis-B within twenty-four (24)
10 hours after birth] **ALL NEW BORN INFANTS SHALL BE GIVEN IMMUNIZATION**
11 **AGAINST HEPATITIS-B IMMEDIATELY WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS**
12 **AFTER BIRTH; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT INFANTS BORN OUTSIDE A**
13 **HOSPITAL, MEDICAL CLINIC OR THE LIKE, SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ANY**
14 **AVAILABLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY SO AS TO BE IMMUNIZED AGAINST**
15 **HEPATITIS-B WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS AFTER BIRTH BUT NOT LATER**
16 **THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS: PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT THE SUBSEQUENT**
17 **DOSES OF HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION SHALL BE COMPLETED ACCORDING TO**

1 THE RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE OF HEPATITIS-B IMMUNIZATION, AS MAY BE
2 PROVIDED IN THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED UNDER
3 SECTION 4 HEREOF; *PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT ALL HEALTH CARE*
4 *PRACTITIONERS OR HEALTH CARE WORKERS WHO ARE ADMINISTERING*
5 *PRENATAL CARE SHALL EDUCATE ALL PREGNANT MOTHERS ON THE*
6 *IMPORTANCE OF GIVING THEIR INFANTS THE BASIC IMMUNIZATION SERVICES*
7 *AS WELL AS ANY POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF IMMUNIZATION.”*

8 **SEC. 2. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
9 this Act shall be taken from the two and half percent (2.5%) allocation for the disease
10 prevention program of the Department of Health (DOH) from the incremental revenues
11 from the alcohol and tobacco excise taxes, as provided for under R. A. 9334.

12 The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall include the basic
13 immunization services in its benefit package when actuarial studies have determined its
14 financial feasibility.

15 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** - All other laws, decrees, executive orders,
16 presidential issuances, rules and regulations or any part thereof, which are inconsistent
17 herewith, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Health shall
19 promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days
20 after the approval of this Act.

21 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or
22 provisions of this Act shall be declared or held unconstitutional or invalid, other provision
23 or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and
24 effect.

25 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
27 circulation.

28 Approved,

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