



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7134

BY REPRESENTATIVES TAN (A.), VILLARICA, GARBIN, ORTEGA (P.), GO (M.), SAHALI, ESCUDERO, VARGAS, AGGABAO, VIOLAGO, QUIMBO, BRAVO (A.), ACOPI, SUANSING (E.), ANTONIO, ARAGONES, CHAVEZ, CUARESMA, SALO, MARIÑO, VILLARIN, BAGUILAT, PALMA, BULUT-BEGTANG, ROQUE (H.), ZARATE, ERIGUEL, RODRIGUEZ (M.), ELAGO, ROBES, MERCADO, YAP (V.), NAVA, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, NOGRALES (K.A.), DEL MAR, LOBREGAT, ABELLANOSA, AMATONG, CALIXTO-RUBIANO, CASTRO (F.L.), DELOSO-MONTALLA, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PADUANO, RELAMPAGOS, VERGARA, ROQUE (R.), SACDALAN, ZUBIRI, NOEL, GONZALES (A.P.), ORTEGA (V.N.), GARCIA (J.E.), BELARO AND PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 599

AN ACT PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAW ON REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES"

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
2 the “Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health
3 Events of Public Health Concern Act”.

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the
5 policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the
6 people and instill health consciousness among them. It shall
7 endeavor to protect the people from public health threats through
8 the efficient and effective disease surveillance of notifiable diseases
9 including emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, diseases for
10 elimination and eradication, epidemics, and health events of public
11 health concern and provide an effective response system in
12 compliance with the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR) of
13 the World Health Organization (WHO). The State recognizes
14 epidemics and other public health emergencies as threats to public
15 health and national security, which can undermine the social,
16 economic, and political functions of the State.

17 The State also recognizes disease surveillance and response
18 systems of the Department of Health (DOH) and its local
19 counterparts, as the first line of defense to epidemics and health
20 events of public health concern that pose risk to public health and
21 security.

22 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

23 (a) *Disease* refers to an illness due to a specific toxic
24 substance, occupational exposure or infectious agent, which affects a
25 susceptible individual, either directly or indirectly, as from an
26 infected animal or person, or indirectly through an intermediate
27 host, vector, or the environment;

1 (b) *Disease control* refers to the reduction of disease
2 incidence, prevalence, morbidity or mortality to a locally acceptable
3 level as a result of deliberate efforts and continued intervention
4 measures to maintain the reduction;

5 (c) *Disease surveillance* refers to the ongoing systematic
6 collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of outcome-
7 specific data for use in the planning, implementation, and
8 evaluation of public health practice. A disease surveillance system
9 includes the functional capacity for data analysis as well as the
10 timely dissemination of these data to persons who can undertake
11 effective prevention and control activities;

12 (d) *Emerging or reemerging infectious diseases* refer to
13 diseases that (1) have not occurred in humans before; (2) have
14 occurred previously but affected only small numbers of people in
15 isolated areas; (3) have occurred throughout human history but
16 have only recently been recognized as a distant disease due to an
17 infectious agent; (4) are caused by previously undetected or
18 unknown infectious agents; (5) are due to mutant or resistant
19 strains of a causative organism; and (6) once were major health
20 problems in the country, and then declined dramatically, but are
21 again becoming health problems for a significant proportion of the
22 population;

23 (e) *Epidemic or outbreak* refers to an occurrence of more
24 cases of disease than normally expected within a specific place or
25 group of people over a given period of time;

26 (f) *Epidemiologic investigation* refers to an inquiry to the
27 incidence, prevalence, extent, source, mode of transmission,