

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8558

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BY REPRESENTATIVES TAN (A.), REVILLA, BAGATSING, SAULOG, TAMBUNTING, ALONTE, CARI, TEVES (J.), CABOCHAN, VARGAS, VILLAFUERTE, SUANSING (E.), ROBES, SY-ALVARADO, ROMUALDO, ERIGUEL, LOYOLA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, LAZATIN, SAVELLANO, DEFENSOR (M.), GATO, RAMOS, VIOLAGO, NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO, CHUNGALAO, NIETO, ARENAS, HERNANDEZ, GARCIA (P.J.), BELMONTE, ERMITA-BUHAIN, SALCEDA, CUA, TEJADA, GASATAYA, JALOSJOS, SUANSING (H.), MATUGAS, GARCIA (J.E.), GONZAGA, HARESCO, CUARESMA, UY (J.), DAZA, LIMKAICHONG, ZUBIRI, SAGARBARRIA, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, CALDERON, CAMPOS, SUAREZ (D.), GONZALEZ, MOMO, FRASCO, ZAMORA (W.K.), BALINDONG, BARBA, BERNOS, BRAVO, BASCUG, CAMINERO, DALOG, DELOS SANTOS, DELOSO-MONTALLA, DIMAPORO (A.), ESPINO, FARIÑAS (R.C.), FORTUNO, HOFER, JIMENEZ, LABADLABAD, MARIÑO, NAVA, ORTEGA, OUANO-DIZON, PLAZA, ROMAN, SANCHEZ, SILVERIO, SINGSON-MEEHAN, TIANGCO, TUTOR, TY (D.), VERGARA, CO (E.), CABATBAT, DAGOOC, GUYA, QUIMBO, FORTUN, BABASA, ENVERGA, GATCHALIAN, MENDOZA, NOGRALES (J.J.), RAMIREZ-SATO, RODRIGUEZ, ROMULO, SANGCOPAN, SARMIENTO, SUNTAY, DALIPE AND MACEDA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 725

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR A MANDATORY IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10152, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011"**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Immunization  
2 Program Act".

3       **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — In accordance with Article II, Section 15 of the  
4 Constitution, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to take a proactive role in the  
5 preventive health care of all Filipinos. Towards this end, the State shall adopt a  
6 comprehensive, mandatory and sustainable immunization program for vaccine-  
7 preventable diseases.

8       **SEC. 3. National Immunization Program.** — There is hereby established a  
9 National Immunization Program under the Department of Health (DOH), which shall  
10 ensure that the population is equitably protected from vaccine-preventable diseases that  
11 can cause disability or death through an integrated and comprehensive immunization  
12 program for all life stages, in accordance with this Act.

13       **SEC. 4. Coverage.** — The mandatory immunization provided under this Act shall  
14 cover the following vaccine-preventable diseases:

- 15           (a) Tuberculosis;
- 16           (b) Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis;
- 17           (c) Poliomyelitis;
- 18           (d) Measles;
- 19           (e) Mumps;
- 20           (f) Rubella or German measles;
- 21           (g) Hepatitis-B;
- 22           (h) H. Influenza type B (HIB);
- 23           (i) Rotavirus;
- 24           (j) Japanese encephalitis;
- 25           (k) Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV);
- 26           (l) Human papilloma virus (HPV);
- 27           (m) Booster for Measles, Rubella, Tetanus, Diphtheria (MRTD)

1 (n) Such other types as may be determined by the Secretary of Health upon  
2 the recommendation of the National Immunization Technical and Advisory  
3 Group (NITAG) established under Section 6 of this Act and after a separate  
4 or joint public hearing conducted by the Committee on Health and  
5 Demography of the Senate of the Philippines and the Committee on Health  
6 of the House of Representatives: *Provided*, That when there is a pandemic  
7 and when the Congress of the Philippines is not in session, the said public  
8 hearings need not be conducted.

9 The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall include the  
10 mandatory immunization services specified under this Act in its benefit package.  
11 However, such other types under Section 4 (n) shall undergo evaluation by the Health  
12 Technology Assessment Council pursuant to R.A 11223, otherwise known as the  
13 "Universal Health Care Act", before its inclusion in the benefit package.

14 **SEC. 5. Administration of Vaccines.** - The vaccines shall be administered for  
15 free in any government hospital or health facility, and in any public school or community  
16 under its school-based or community-based immunization program, and in any private  
17 health facility if such is included in the PhilHealth benefit package.

18 The DOH, in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Department  
19 of Interior and Local Government, shall undertake a school-based and community-based  
20 immunization program. The DOH shall determine the vaccines suitable for the various  
21 age groups from the list enumerated in Section 4 under this Act.

22 Hepatitis-B vaccine shall be administered by any duly licensed physician, nurse or  
23 midwife to infants born in hospitals, health infirmaries, health centers or lying-in centers  
24 with obstetrical and pediatric services, whether public or private, within twenty-four (24)  
25 hours after birth: *Provided, however*, That in cases of infants born in places other than  
26 the above, any duly licensed physician, nurse or midwife who delivers or assists in the  
27 delivery of the newborn, shall be responsible for administering the vaccine to the latter:  
28 *Provided, further*, That for deliveries assisted by persons other than the health  
29 professionals mentioned above, the infant should be brought to any available health care  
30 facility to be immunized against Hepatitis-B within twenty-four (24) hours but not later than  
31 seven (7) days after birth: *Provided, finally*, That subsequent doses of the Hepatitis-B  
32 vaccine shall be completed according to the recommended schedule of Hepatitis-B  
33 immunization to be provided in the rules and regulations to be issued by the DOH to  
34 implement this Act.

35 **SEC. 6. Creation of the National Immunization Technical and Advisory**  
36 **Group.** - A National Immunization Technical and Advisory Group (NITAG) shall be  
37 created to serve as a technical and independent multi-disciplinary advisory body to  
38 provide evidence-based policy and program decisions on immunization and vaccines to  
39 the DOH. The NITAG shall be composed of experts from the fields of pediatrics, infectious  
40 diseases, epidemiology, public health, health economy and from affiliate agencies such  
41 as the Formulary Executive Council, Food and Drug Administration, Philippine Nurses

1 Association, Philippine Pharmacists Association, Inc., and the National Institutes of  
2 Health.

3 The NITAG shall have the following functions:

4 a). To advise the DOH in the formulation of policies, plan and strategies for  
5 research and development of the existing and new vaccines, and the vaccine  
6 delivery technology;

7 b). To conduct policy analysis, review of the program data and evidence in order  
8 to provide evidence-based technical advice and recommendations for the  
9 development of appropriate and sustainable immunization policies, guidelines,  
10 strategies, and approaches related to Immunization Program and vaccine delivery  
11 technology; and

12 c). To review the position papers, studies, international guidelines and  
13 recommendations from internationally acknowledged resources for possible  
14 adoption in the country policies and plans for NITAG.

15 **SEC. 7. Education and Information campaign.** - All health care practitioners or  
16 health care workers who are administering prenatal care shall educate all pregnant  
17 mothers on the importance of immunization through vaccination in safeguarding infant  
18 health and well-being as well as on the possible effects of immunization.

19 The DOH, other government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs),  
20 professional and academic societies, and local government units (LGUs) shall make  
21 available appropriate information materials and shall institute an efficient public  
22 information dissemination system to increase awareness on the importance of  
23 immunization as a disease prevention strategy.

24 **SEC. 8. Obligation to Inform.** - Any physician, nurse, midwife, nursing aide or  
25 skilled birth attendant, who delivers or assists in the delivery of a newborn shall, prior to  
26 delivery, inform parents or legal guardian of the newborn of the availability, nature and  
27 benefits of immunization against Hepatitis-B and other vaccine-preventable diseases at  
28 birth.

29 **SEC. 9. Continuing Education and Training of Health Personnel.** —The DOH  
30 shall, with the assistance of the LGUs, academe, professional societies and NGOs,  
31 undertake continuing information, education and training programs for all health  
32 personnel on the rationale and benefits of, as well as modern procedures for  
33 immunization of infants and children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

34 **SEC. 10. Annual Report.** – The DOH shall submit to the Office of the President of  
35 the Philippines, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and the House of  
36 Representatives Committee on Health on or before the end of December of every year,  
37 or upon the request of any of the aforesaid committees of Congress, a report giving a  
38 detailed account of the status of the implementation of this Act.

1           **SEC. 11. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary to carry out the  
2 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations for  
3 expanded program on immunization of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be  
4 necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual  
5 General Appropriations Act.

6           **SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** —The DOH shall, in  
7 consultation with the National Immunization Committee, issue the implementing rules and  
8 regulations within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

9           **SEC. 13. Separability Clause.** —If, for any reason, any part or provision of this  
10 Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions hereof which  
11 are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

12           **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** — Republic Act No. 10152, otherwise known as the  
13 "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011" is hereby repealed.  
14 All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are  
15 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

16           **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** —This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
17 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18           *Approved,*