

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 NOV 14 A8:55

SENATE

S. No. 1498

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID


AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A DRUG OVERDOSE REPORTING AND AWARENESS
SYSTEM TO PREVENT DRUG OVERDOSE-RELATED DEATHS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Drug overdose refers to the ingestion or application of a drug or other substance in quantities greater than the prescribed or recommended dose. Drug overdose can be accidental overdoses or intentional misuse. The former occurs when a person consumes a drug by accident or in error. On the other hand, the latter occurs when a person consumes a drug for its desired effect – it could be to get high, to harm oneself, or similar reasons. Drug overdose can cause serious adverse consequences and even death.

Drug overdose, whether accidental or intentional, can be prevented. Its unintended side effects or even life-threatening symptoms consequences can be avoided. Thus, this bill seeks to require the Secretary of Health to publish bi-annually findings on nationwide drug overdose trends that reviews overdose death rates and other information to ascertain changes in the cause and rates of fatal drug overdoses. With this, necessary information will be gathered that will lead to formulation of proper and strategies to be undertaken to effectively address the issue on drug overdose.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

'22 NOV 14 A8:55

SENATE

S. No. 1498

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A DRUG OVERDOSE REPORTING AND AWARENESS
SYSTEM TO PREVENT DRUG OVERDOSE-RELATED DEATHS

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Drug Overdose
2 Reporting and Awareness System Act."

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote the
4 general welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, this Act seeks to prevent deaths
5 caused by drug overdose by requiring the Secretary of Health to submit a report to
6 Congress relating to the prevalence of drugs overdose incidents, trends in drug
7 overdose incidents and strategies for addressing such drug overdose incidents.

8 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

9 1. "Department" means the Department of Health;

10 2. "Drug Overdose" means the ingestion or application, whether intentional or
11 accidental, of a drug or other substance in quantities greater than are
12 recommended or generally practiced; and

13 3. "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.

14 SECTION 4. *Reporting Requirements.* –

1 a. The Secretary shall publish bi-annually findings on nationwide drug
2 overdose trends that reviews overdose death rates and other information
3 to ascertain changes in the cause and rates of fatal drug overdoses for an
4 appropriate period of time, based on information collected pursuant to the
5 Act. The report shall also provide information on interventions that would
6 be effective in reducing the rate of drug overdose.

7 b. The report shall include, at a minimum the following information:

8 1. Trends in drug overdose deaths;

9 2. Trends in emergency room utilization for the treatment of drug
10 overdose;

11 3. Trends in utilization of pre-hospital and emergency services and the
12 cost of emergency services utilization for drug overdose;

13 4. Suggested improvements in data collection; and

14 5. A description of education efforts and other interventions that would
15 be effective in reducing the rate of drug overdose.

16 SECTION 5. *Advice regarding Drug Overdose.* – The Secretary shall provide an
17 annual advisory to municipal, city, and provincial official, which shall contain:

18 a. The prevalence of drug overdose incidents;

19 b. Trends in drug overdose incidents; and

20 c. Best practices and strategies for addressing drug overdose in their
21 jurisdiction.

22 SECTION 6. *Mandatory Disclosure of Death by Drug Overdose.* – Where a death
23 is caused by drug overdose, such information shall be reported by the examining
24 physician or the person who supplies information for the death certificate, including
25 any related or specific information concerning the drug or drugs responsible for the
26 death, and any other information related to the overdose death as the Secretary shall
27 require.

1 SECTION 7. *Data Privacy.* – The information and data collected under this Act
2 shall be processed in compliance with R.A. No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data
3 Privacy Act of 2012.”

4 SECTION 8. *Unlawful Withholding or Failure to Disclose Drug Overdose*
5 *Information; Violation; Penalties.* –

6 a. It shall be unlawful for a parent, spouse, child, sibling, next of kin, guardian,
7 or any person similarly charged with the information relating to the
8 deceased, to knowingly withhold, fail to disclose, or falsify any information
9 relating to the incident of drug overdose, information concerning the drug
10 or drugs responsible for the death, and other information relating to the
11 death caused by drug overdose.

12 b. It shall likewise be unlawful for the hospital, health care facility, attending
13 physician, or medico-legal in possession of such information to withhold fail
14 to disclose, or falsify any information when filing a report of the overdose
15 victim’s death. Such report shall be mandatory, and the Secretary shall
16 promulgate rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the passage
17 of this Act regarding the filing of such report.

18 c. Any person convicted for unlawful withholding, failing to disclose, or
19 falsifying the information required in the preceding paragraph shall be
20 penalized with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more
21 than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

22 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section, subsection,
23 clause or term of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by
24 such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

25 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and
26 regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
27 amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

1 SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

4 *Approved,*