

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



23 MAR 30 P3:41

SENATE
S.B. No. 2052

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Raffy T. Tulfo", written over a horizontal line.

Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYEE AND PATIENT NOTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARDS IN HOSPITALS

Explanatory Note

Healthcare providers are the country's first line of defense from dangerous and infectious diseases. It is clear with the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic how essential these individuals are in preventing these illnesses from spreading and causing great harm to individuals. As such, healthcare workers are vital for the physical and economic health of every person in the Philippines. With that being said, it is imperative now more than ever that hospital staff and their patients are well-guarded against exposure to harmful substances within hospital premises.

Hospitals have numerous harmful and hazardous substances that employees and patients alike have no knowledge of. In response, it is imperative that the State create a policy that further protects these modern-day heroes that work to save lives each and every day. With this, this bill proposes to mandate hospitals to educate all their employees on the health and safety conditions of the premises. Furthermore, they will also be informed of the possible hazardous substances used, stored, or present. The proposed measure will also allow hospital occupants to learn about the hazardous materials they may be exposed to.

In light of this, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A large, handwritten signature in black ink, "Raffy T. Tulfo", written in a cursive style, looping around the printed name and title.

Raffy T. Tulfo
Senator

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

1 **Section 1. Notification of Hazards.** – To ensure that each patient and hospital
2 employee has access to information about environmental health issues and hazards
3 in the hospital, the following actions shall be taken by each hospital:

4
5 a. Each hospital shall appoint an environmental health and safety information
6 access contact person;

7
8 b. Annually, each hospital shall inform and educate all hospital employees that
9 they have a right to all information about health and safety conditions in the
10 hospital including, but not limited to:

11 i. Hazardous substances used, stored, or present in the hospital;
12 construction and rehabilitation activities;

13 ii. Air or water quality sampling results and problems and procedures or
14 information access;

15 iii. Identification of the environmental health and safety information access
16 contact person; and

17 iv. Requirements to timely respond to information requests and such other
18 procedures which ensure access to such information.

1 c. Each hospital shall inform and educate every patient, as soon after the patient's
2 admission to the hospital as is reasonably possible without jeopardizing the
3 patient's health, that they have a right to all information about health and
4 safety conditions in the hospital including, but not limited to:

5 i. Hazardous substances used, stored, or present in the hospital,
6 construction, and rehabilitation activities;

7 ii. Air or water quality sampling results and problems and procedures for
8 information access; and

9 iii. Identification of the environmental health and safety information access
10 contact person requirements to timely respond to information requests
11 and such other procedures which ensure access to such information.
12

13 **Sec 2. Inventory.** – Each hospital shall be mandated to do the following
14 measures:

15 a. Conduct an annual inventory of all hazardous substances used, stored
16 or present, and make such inventory available to the public;

17 b. Develop written plans to minimize the use and presence of hazardous
18 substances, including a timetable for the completion of the components
19 of such plans; and

20 c. Prepare written reports on the results of all sampling, evaluation and
21 remediation activities, and make such reports available to the public.
22

23 **Sec 3. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
24 or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
25 amended, or modified accordingly.
26

27 **Sec 4. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
28 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which
29 are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
30

1 ***Sec 5. Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
2 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

Approved,