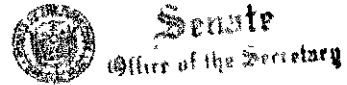


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'13 AUG 22 P4:59

SENATE
S. No. 1334

RECEIVED BY: *js*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Patients are particularly vulnerable to exposures to harmful substances. Numerous chemicals found in hospitals may be toxic or irritating to body systems. They may be present as dusts, vapors or gases, or liquids and they may be medications and other substances used for therapeutic purposes. Employees, because of the significant amounts of time they spend at work, also have the potential for significant exposures. Hospitals present numerous hazards in common with other complex employment settings and industries as well as having some unique hazards.

This bill will serve several purposes. It will make hospitals more aware of the hazardous materials and substances used and stored in their premises. It will cause hospitals to minimize the use of these hazardous materials and substances, use less toxic replacements and remove those hazardous materials that serve no purpose. The bill will also allow hospital occupants to learn what hazardous materials they may be exposed to.*

ms
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.



'13 AUG 22 P 4 :59

SENATE
S. No. **1334**

RECEIVED BY: *Ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT

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

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

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

A. Each hospital shall appoint an environmental health and safety information access contact person.

B. Annually, each hospital shall inform and educate all hospital employees that they have a right to all information about health and safety conditions in the hospital including, but not limited to, hazardous substances used, stored, or present in the hospital; construction and rehabilitation activities; air or water quality sampling results and problems; procedures for information access; identification of the environmental health and safety information access contact person; requirements to timely response to information requests; and such other procedures which ensure access to such information.

C. Each hospital shall inform and educate every patient, as soon after the patient's admission to the hospital as is reasonably possible without jeopardizing the patient's health, that they have a right to all information about health and safety conditions in the hospital including, but not limited to, hazardous substances used, stored, or present in the hospital; construction and rehabilitation activities; air or water quality sampling results and problems; procedures for information access; identification of the environmental health and safety information access

1 contact person; requirements to timely response to information requests; and such other
2 procedures which ensure access to such information.

3 D. Such other action as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Health.

4 SECTION 2. *Inventory.* – Each hospital shall:

5 A. Annually inventory all hazardous substances used, stored, or present; and make
6 such inventory available to the public;

7 B. Develop written plans to minimize the use and presence of hazardous substances,
8 including a timetable for the completion of the components of such plans; and

9 C. Prepare written reports on the results of all sampling, evaluation, and remediation
10 activities; and make such reports available to the public.

11 SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall promulgate the rules and regulations to
13 implement this Act.

14 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
15 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
16 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

17
18 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
19 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
20 accordingly.

21 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
22 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,