

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 83

Introduced by Representative Susan A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

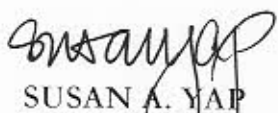
Public health is one of the primary concerns of governments given its direct relationship with human resource productivity and economic activity. That is why it is incumbent upon them to implement preventive and rehabilitative measures in the face of major health risks, one of which takes the form of the Hepatitis-B virus.

According to statistics, 8 million or 10 percent of Filipinos are infected with Hepatitis-B. Research conducted by the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) shows that the said virus infection is a major attribution (by 90 percent) to liver cancer cases in the country - the second most common cancer problem among men and the 9th most common among women. The complications associated with this disease are serious; it can lead to lifelong infection, cirrhosis or scarring of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and even death.

While medication and procedures are available to counter the effects of Hepa-B - albeit at very a high cost, prevention remains to be the best and the cheapest alternative to ensure health safety. According to experts, the Hepa-B virus is transmitted through contaminated blood or blood products as well as from a mother to her infant during birth. The first one can be easily undertaken provided proper precautions are taken; the transfer from mother to newborn, however, poses a great challenge.

This proposed measure seeks to help prevent transmittal of the Hepa-B virus to newborns through mandatory vaccination within twelve (12) hours from birth. Such prescription is derived from the recommendations made by medical experts to help prevent unrecognized perinatal transmission of the virus.

In view of ensuring overall public health and the goal of reducing infant mortality, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SUSAN A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

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AN ACT
AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 996, AS AMENDED, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION. 1. Section 2 of Presidential Decree No. 996, as amended, is
2 hereby further amended to read as follows:

3
4 “SEC. 2. Scope - Basic Immunization services shall include (a) BCG
5 Vaccination against tuberculosis; (b) Inoculation against diptheria, tetanus, and
6 pertussis; (c) Oral poliomyelitis immunization; (d) Protection against measles; (e)
7 Immunization against rubella; (f) immunization against Hepatitis-B; (9) such other
8 basic immunization services for infants and children below eight years of age as
9 determined by the Secretary of Health in a department circular: Provided, That
10 [newborn infants of women with Hepatitis-B shall be given immunization against
11 Hepatitis-B within twenty-four (24) hours after birth] **ALL NEW BORN**
12 **INFANTS SHALL BE GIVEN IMMUNIZATION AGAINST HEPATITIS-**
13 **B IMMEDIATELY WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS AFTER**
14 **BIRTH; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT INFANTS BORN OUTSIDE A**
15 **HOSPITAL, MEDICAL CLINIC OR THE LIKE, SHOULD BE**
16 **BROUGHT TO ANY AVAILABLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY SO AS TO**
17 **BE IMMUNIZED AGAINST HEPATITIS-B WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR**
18 **(24) HOURS AFTER BIRTH BUT NOT LATER THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS:**
19 **PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT THE SUBSEQUENT DOSES OF**
20 **HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION SHALL BE COMPLETED ACCORDING**
21 **TO THE RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE OF HEPATITIS-B**
22 **IMMUNIZATION, AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE IMPLEMENTING**
23 **RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED UNDER SECTION 4 HEREOF;**
24 **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS**
25 **OR HEALTH CARE WORKERS WHO ARE ADMINISTERING**
26 **PRENATAL CARE SHALL TEACH ALL PREGNANT MOTHERS ON**
27 **THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING THEIR INFANTS THE BASIC**
28 **IMMUNIZATION SERVICES AS WELL AS ANY POSSIBLE EFFECTS**
29 **OF IMMUNIZATION.”**
30

31 SEC. 2. Coordination between Government Agencies. - There shall be close
32 coordination between Local Government Units and the National Government
33 Agencies involved in health care delivery services to ensure proper monitoring,
34 implementation, and evaluation of, and recording of data relevant to, the delivery
35 of basic immunization services.

1 SEC. 3. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
2 of this Act shall be taken from the two and half percent (2.5%) allocation for the
3 disease prevention program of the Department of Health (DOH) from the
4 incremental revenues from the alcohol and tobacco excise taxes, as provided for
5 under R. A. 9334.

6
7 The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall include the basic
8 immunization services in its benefit package when actuarial studies have determined
9 its financial feasibility.

10
11 SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, decrees, executive orders,
12 presidential issuances, rules and regulations or any part thereof, which are
13 inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

14
15 SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health
16 shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act within ninety
17 (90) days after the approval of this Act.

18
19 SEC. 6. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or
20 provisions of this Act shall be declared or held unconstitutional or invalid, other
21 provision or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be
22 in full force and effect.

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24 SEC. 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of
26 general circulation.

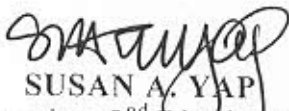
27
28 Approved,

productivity of open and/or denuded and degraded forestlands as well as increase the income of communities concerned;

- (6) Security of Tenure of Stakeholders. - In pursuance of the principles of sustainable and multi-use forest management and equitable access to forest resources, a secured tenure shall be guaranteed to stakeholders concerned; and
- (7) Professionalism in the Forest Service. - A dynamic, professional and people- oriented forest service shall be established and fully supported by the government.

The country is endowed with natural resources that afford us opportunities for growth and development. However, the use of such requires a balancing act between present and future consumption, especially amidst scarcity and depletion. The government must be mindful of the needs of future generations and must therefore practice conservation to ensure long-term sustainability.

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


SUSAN A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac