

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 988

Introduced by REP. AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system, and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

The increasing number of Filipinos contracting Hepatitis – B and cancer of the liver is getting more alarming. The government therefore needs to take immediate actions to abate the spread of virus and its threat to human health especially to new born babies. This bill seeks to promote proper education and preventive programs pertaining to Hepatitis – B and liver cancer. The bill proposes to celebrate Hepatitis – B and Liver Cancer Awareness on the month of February of every year to be led by the Department of Health and each local government units.

In view of addressing the increasing cases of Filipinos infected with these life – threatening diseases, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
2nd District, Province of Iloilo

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS "LIVER
CANCER AND HEPATITIS – B AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the "Liver Cancer and Hepatitis – B Awareness and Prevention Month Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system, and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

In furtherance of this constitutional mandate, this Act aims to declare the month of February of every year as the awareness and prevention month for liver cancer and hepatitis – B.

SEC. 3. *Awareness Month*. – The month of February of every year shall be designated as the "Liver Cancer and Hepatitis – B Awareness and Prevention Month".

SEC. 4. *Public Education and Awareness Program*. – To ensure the meaningful observance of the month as herein declared, a comprehensive public education and awareness program shall be undertaken on the communicable disease of Hepatitis – B. The program shall specifically discuss the causes, transmission, consequences, diagnoses, treatments and the prevention of Hepatitis – B, including the need for immediate infant immunization and the indispensability of observing the correct schedule and dosage, as well as the importance of child and adult vaccination, for a holistic approach in battling the virus.

SEC. 5. *Interagency and Multi – Sectoral Effort*. – The Department of Health on the part of the national government, and the cities and municipalities on the part of the local governments shall lead the implementation of comprehensive public education and awareness program on liver cancer and hepatitis – B through the collaborative interagency and multi – sectoral effort at

all levels. It shall particularly ensure widespread and expeditious public information about the benefits of compulsory routine immunization for hepatitis – B of all infants within twenty - four (24) hours after birth.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health shall promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its approval.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9 *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,