

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5677



Introduced by Representatives Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. and Irwin C.
Tieng (BUHAY Party List)

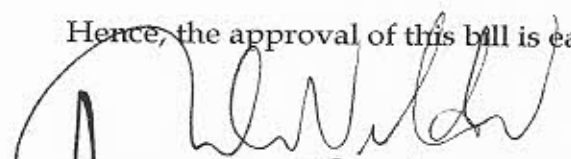
EXPLANATORY NOTE

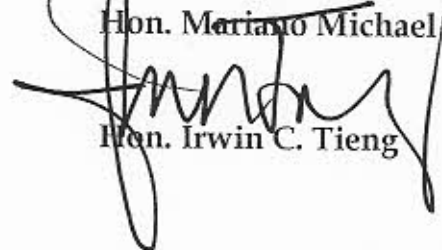
Regarding a comment on Republic Act 9502 or The Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008, an article in the UP Forum cited the observations made by Dr. Monet M. Loquias from the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies of the National Institute of Health. According to Dr. Loquias, the lack of a self-reliant pharmaceutical industry has left the country at the mercy of multinationals which have dominated drugs supply and pricing, and even policy and practices through their powerful marketing machinery. She said that local drug manufacturers still have to import ingredients from abroad and thus, cannot reduce prices of medicines significantly. For cheaper medicines, she stated, the country is left with no other option but to import them from countries such as India, which has its own thriving pharmaceutical industry.

Consequently, in this kind of set-up, importation of active and inactive ingredients of drugs by drug companies is widespread making their products vulnerable to containing subpotent or superpotent concentrations of active ingredients, or having unknown inactive ingredients, or being manufactured using methods that render the product impure.

Intending to improve the labeling standards in view of protecting the health of Filipino citizens, this bill requires country of origin labeling on prescription and over-the-counter drugs because we can never allow in this country that medications be the very source of illnesses.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.


Hon. Irwin C. Tieng

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House Bill No. 5877

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**AN ACT TO REQUIRE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING ON PRESCRIPTION
AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Transparency in Drug Labeling Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall be the policy of the State to protect the health of the public by ensuring the quality of medications.

SEC. 3. *Country of Origin Labeling for Drugs.* - Labeling on prescription and over-the-counter drugs shall require the following:

- a) The identity of the manufacturing country of each active ingredient of the drug, listed in descending order based on the percentage of the number of active ingredients in the final dosage form manufactured in such countries;
- b) The identity of the manufacturing country of each inactive ingredient of the drug, listed in descending order based on the percentage of the number of inactive ingredients in the final dosage form manufactured in such countries.

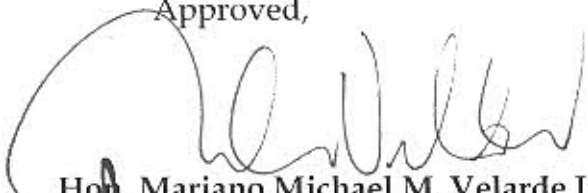
SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Bureau of Food and Drugs, under the Department of Health, shall formulate the necessary guidelines and promulgate rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall at any time be found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,



Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.



Hon. Irwin C. Tieng