

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 403



Introduced by Representative Susan A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipinos have generally low awareness of their own blood type, adding that this simple knowledge spells life or death in unlikely situations and events such as accidents, disasters or calamities.

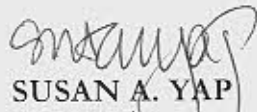
Accidents and other medical emergency situations happen to everyone. Thus, in case of emergency which results in excessive blood loss, immediate matching of the correct blood type may be transfused in order to save the life of the victim. Knowledge of one's blood type is important for both the recipient and the donor for the immediate transfusion of the appropriate blood. Also, the blood supply system requires a high degree of scientific accuracy, training and integrity. Blood products must be pure as there is little room for error. Blood typing underscores this need for accuracy.

Considering that during emergencies, identification cards, certificates and licenses are the primary sources of the blood type and other information needed by rescuers and health care providers, so that necessary medical attention can be provided immediately, it is imperative that the holder must indicate only accurate information to avoid further harm.

Under the proposed measure government requires agencies issuing licenses, certificates and identification cards to bear the blood type of the owner of such document to allow immediate action or transfusion response in particular during medical emergencies and in times of disaster. The bill covers government issued identification documents such as birth certificates, community tax certificates, driver's licenses, professional licenses as issued by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), firearms licenses, Social Security System (SSS) cards, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) cards and passports.

The bill imposes a fine on any person who deliberately bears false information as to one's blood type. Any person in government office who violates these provisions shall be dismissed from the government service in addition to the penalty stipulated in the bill.

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


SUSAN A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

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Introduced by Representative S. Yap

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION CARDS,
CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES TO INCLUDE A PORTION INDICATING THE
BLOOD TYPE OF THE HOLDER AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATIONS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Blood Type Identification Act of 2013”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - In order to promote public health, it is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- (a) To promote awareness about the importance of blood type which is to be found in all government-issued identification cards; and
- (b) To facilitate immediate transfusion response during medical emergencies.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Agencies.* - The Government Service insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Local Treasurer’s Office and the Local Registrar’s Office shall implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Rules and Regulations.* - All government implementing agencies, in coordination with the Department of Health, shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within six (6) months of its effectivity.

SECTION 5. *Coverage.* - The following government-issued identification documents shall bear the blood type of its owner-holder:

- (a) Certificates
 - (1) Birth Certificate or Certificate of Live Birth; and
 - (2) Community Tax Certificate, as issued by the Local Treasurer’s Office
- (b) Licenses
 - (1) Driver’s license, as issued by the LTO; and
 - (2) Firearms license, as issued by the PNP
- (c) Identification Cards
 - (1) SSS Card, as issued by the SSS;
 - (2) GSIS card, as issued by the GSIS;
 - (3) Passport, as issued by the DFA; and

1 (4) Professional Identification Card (PIC), as issued by the PRC and such other
2 identification documents in the same classification as enumerated above.
3

4 **SECTION 6. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
5 shall be charged to the appropriations of the implementing agencies under the General
6 Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation
7 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
8

9 **SECTION 7. Penal Provision.** - Any person who, on his own volition, bears false
10 information regarding his or her blood on his or her license and/or other government identification
11 cards shall be punished by a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00).
12

13 Any person in government office who violates the provisions of this Act shall, in addition to
14 the penalty stated above, be dismissed from government service.
15

16 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** - In the event that any provision of this Act is declared
17 unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.
18

19 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and
20 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
21 repealed or modified accordingly.
22

23 **SECTION 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
24 full and complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation in the
25 Philippines.

Approved,