

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1960

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill mandates the Department of Health and all other medical or health institutions to conduct and make available immunization and vaccination at a faster frequency and access. At present, while immunization and vaccination are done all over the country, it is on a time-based: quarterly in far-flung areas and monthly in barangay health stations. This measure was previously filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15th Congress. Passage of this Bill is earnestly sought now in the 16th Congress.


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 1960

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

AN ACT
PROMOTING THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
PROVISIONS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH,
THROUGH THE STRENGTHENING OF A COMPREHENSIVE FREE
VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO INFANTS
AND CHILDREN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. The citizen's right to health is a fundamental guarantee ensconced in the supreme law. It is a declared policy thus that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Recognizing that vaccinations and immunizations for children have become expensive and has not been accessible for poor families, it is hereby declared that the same should be made available for free administration and comprehensively adopted as a program of social justice.

Section 2. The Department of Health through all government hospitals, its satellite offices, accredited government clinics and medical institutions shall provide for free the following vaccination and immunizations for infants and children:

- a. Hepatitis B;
- b. DPT – diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough);
- c. H. Influenza type b;
- d. Polio (salk injected);
- e. Rotavirus (diarrhea and gastroenteritis)
- f. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German measles);
- g. Varicella (chicken pox)

Provided, That exemptions may be chosen by the parents on account of religious belief that prohibits vaccinations and immunizations, or for medical reasons and which is certified by a licensed medical practitioner, or for any other valid reason that may be advanced by the parents of the infant or child, as necessary. Provided, further, that a certain day of the week must be devoted for immunization and vaccination in all local government unit health centers.

Section 3. The Department of Health in consultation with the national association of pediatrics and recognized experts of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and peoples' organizations and academe on child health and care, children's rights and parental guidance, shall issue the relevant rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. The amount of One Billion Pesos (P 1,000,000,000.00) annually to implement the provisions of this Act covering the comprehensive free immunization and vaccination of children shall be included and incorporated in the budget of the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act.

One percent (1%) of all earnings made by government-owned and controlled corporations shall be collected and to form part of the fund that may be used for the purpose.

Section 5. If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 6. All executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,