

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4411

Introduced by Honorable Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the state shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The World Health Organization (WHO) also affirms that "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. However, access to health care has become an issue of capacity to pay.

While the state remains struggling to provide free health care to its people, legislation should be geared towards ways to lessen the cost of health care without however compromising the right of hospitals and medical clinics to reasonable profits.

This bill seeks to strengthen the right of patients to buy drugs and medicines from outside hospital and medical clinic pharmacy by requiring hospitals and medical clinics to inform their patients of such right before the drug or medicine is administered to the patient. The option will keep the patient on guard against exorbitant prices of drugs and medicines in hospital and medical clinic pharmacy and which are readily available in other pharmacies at much lower prices.

Earnest approval of this bill is hereby requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D

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**AN ACT REQUIRING HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS TO INFORM
THEIR PATIENTS OF THEIR RIGHT TO BUY DRUGS AND MEDICINES FROM
OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CLINIC PHARMACY.**

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

SECTION 1. All hospitals and medical clinics shall first inform their patients, before any medicine is administered to them, that they have the option to buy the needed drug and medicine from outside the hospital or medical clinic pharmacy.

SECTION 2. Any hospital or medical clinic which is found violating this act shall be meted a fine in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) for the first offense; One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) for the second offense; and One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php150,000.00) for the third and succeeding offenses.

SECTION 3. The Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,