

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8287



Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4th District, Bulacan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2017, the Cancer Coalition of the Philippines (CCP) revealed that 11 new cases of cancer are reported every day in the country, seven adults die of the disease every hour, and 8 children die from it every day. Since 2012, CCP cited, 189 out of 100,000 Filipinos have been afflicted with cancer.

Because of these, the Coalition has branded cancer “as a growing and serious public health concern”, and has called for the government’s action towards a comprehensive cancer control program. Initial and essential part of this program is cancer prevention, which, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), offers the greatest public health potential and the most cost-effective long-term method of cancer control.

The WHO further said that about 40% of all cancers are now preventable, with the identification of risk factors that can be addressed to reduce the incidence of cancer, which include among others exposure to carcinogenic substances.

To promote cancer prevention, there is therefore a need to inform and educate the public about known and probable carcinogens, to allow them to make reasonable decisions on the potential risks these carcinogens pose and to avoid excessive exposure from these.

Given the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

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AN ACT
CREATING A DATABASE OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING PROBABLE CARCINOGENS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Probable Carcinogen Information Act.”

SEC 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the meaning as indicated hereunder:

1. “*Carcinogen*” refers to any substance or radiation that is directly involved in the existence of cancer or in the increase of its spread; and,
2. “*Department*” means the Department of Health.

SEC. 3. *Database of Carcinogens.* – The Department shall create a database of known and probable carcinogens which shall be available at all health centers and at their website. There shall also be a database of products that contain these carcinogens. A product may be delisted only if the manufacturers prove that they have taken the carcinogen out of their production process.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,