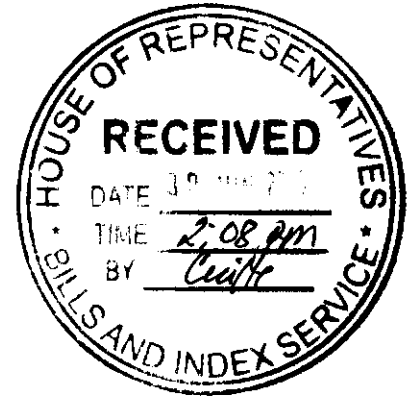


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 436



Introduced by **HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY "HORI" G. HORIBATA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rabies is one of the most preventable yet fatal diseases affecting the Filipino population. Despite the availability of life-saving vaccines, the Department of Health (DOH) reported 426 deaths due to rabies in 2024, with over 400 confirmed cases, nearly half of which were caused by domesticated pets such as dogs and cats.^{[1][2]} This underscores the urgent need to make anti-rabies vaccines universally accessible.

While the DOH highlighted that rabies cases in the Philippines dropped by 39% in 2024 due to improved reporting and interventions^[3], access to timely vaccination remains inconsistent, particularly in far-flung communities where vaccines are either unavailable or unaffordable.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the provision of free anti-rabies vaccines in all barangays and municipal health centers nationwide. By bringing preventive care closer to the people, especially in high-risk and underserved areas, the government can significantly reduce rabies-related deaths and improve its response to animal bite cases.

In support of the national rabies elimination program and in alignment with Republic Act No. 9482 or the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007," the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

TSUYOSHI ANTHONY "HORI" G. HORIBATA
First District, Camarines Sur

¹ <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/health-science/2025/3/17/doh-records-over-400-rabies-cases-in-2024-almost-half-from-domestic-pets-1428>

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2044420/doh-records-426-deaths-due-to-rabies-in-2024>

³ <https://tribune.net.ph/2025/03/17/rabies-cases-in-phl-down-by-39>

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 436

Introduced by HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY “HORI” G. HORIBATA

AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF FREE ANTI-RABIES VACCINATIONS IN ALL PUBLIC HEALTH CENTERS NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Free Anti-Rabies Vaccination in Community Health Center Act 2025."*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – *It is the policy of the State, per Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, to “protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” Furthermore, under Article II, Section 16, the State shall “protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”*

In line with this policy, the State shall ensure equitable access to life-saving anti-rabies vaccines through all public health centers, prioritizing vulnerable populations and underserved communities to prevent avoidable deaths and enhance public health responsiveness.

SECTION 3. Free Anti-Rabies Vaccination Program. – *All barangay and municipal health centers nationwide are hereby mandated to provide free anti-rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and, when necessary, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in accordance with the guidelines set by the Department of Health (DOH).*

SECTION 4. Program Implementation. – *The DOH shall lead the implementation of the national free anti-rabies vaccination program. It shall coordinate with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), local government units (LGUs), and other concerned agencies to ensure the availability, timely distribution, and administration of vaccines.*

SECTION 5. Public Information and Community Awareness. – *The DOH, in partnership with LGUs, shall conduct regular information campaigns to raise awareness on rabies prevention, proper response to animal bites, and the availability of free vaccination services.*

SECTION 6. Appropriations. – *The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continuous implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).*

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – *Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with the DILG, LGUs, and relevant stakeholders shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively carry out the intent of this Act.*

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – *All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.*

SECTION 9. Effectivity. – *This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.*

Approved,