

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3355**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
CREATING A DATABASE OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING
PROBABLE CARCINOGENS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides:

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

In the Philippines, cancer remains the third leading cause of morbidity and mortality, despite best efforts to fully implement Republic Act No. 11215 or the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA) and Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law. Crucial to instilling health consciousness in our people is improving the delivery of information, especially on cancer-causing agents.

Cancer is brought about by changes or mutations in a cell's DNA – its genetic “blueprint”. Part of these changes may have been inherited from our parents, while others may be caused by outside exposures, which are often referred to as environmental factors. These factors may include a wide range of exposures, such as lifestyle factors, naturally occurring exposures, medical treatments, workplace and household exposures, and pollution.

Substances and exposures that can lead to cancer are referred to as carcinogens. Carcinogens do not cause cancer 100% of the time. Substances considered carcinogens may have different levels of cancer-causing potential. Some may cause cancer only after prolonged, high levels of exposure. For any particular person, the risk of developing cancer depends on many factors,

including how they are exposed to a carcinogen, the length and intensity of the exposure, and the person's genetic makeup. However, products with probable carcinogens must be flagged so that consumers are made aware of their harmful effects in the long run.

This bill seeks to inform consumers of the potential risk to cancer by creating a database of consumer products containing probable carcinogens. It is the hope of this measure to influence public decisions in ways that consumers can better make informed choices for their health and well-being.

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



REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

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

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, the term:

- (a) “*Carcinogen*” refers to any substance or radiation that is directly involved in the existence of cancer or in the increase of its spread; and
- (b) “*Carcinogenic*” means having the potential to cause cancer.

SECTION 3. Database of Carcinogens. – The Department of Health shall create a database of known and probable carcinogens, which shall be made available at all health centers and on their website. The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall also create a database of products that are carcinogenic or 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.

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Health and the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry shall, in coordination with other stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act

which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,