

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3402**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF THE BLOOD TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS
IN THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A birth certificate is an official form issued and certified by the Philippine Statistics Authority. It is a document that provides personal records of an individual regarding birth, sex, nationality, and parents' information. This is the very document that authenticates an individual's identity. A birth certificate is a basic requirement for education, marriage, employment, social security coverage, and eligibility for assistance, may it be from the public or private sector.

In many countries like the United States, an individual's blood type is indicated in their birth certificates not only because it is part of their identity but also because it is a crucial medical information that could possibly save their lives.

Medical emergencies can happen anytime in one's lifetime. Accidents and other severe health conditions that require immediate blood transfusion may be a matter of life and death for many. Thus, having access to information on one's blood type through their birth certificates makes it convenient and prudent for one to ensure protection for their health and wellbeing in the future.

Having certain blood types can also determine if you are more likely to develop serious symptoms from illnesses or if you are at risk of suffering from cancer.¹

¹ Unilab. "Blood Type why you need to know yours". <https://www.unilab.com.ph/articles/blood-type-why-you-need-to-know-yours> (Accessed Online 27 October 2022)

According to research by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, certain blood types are also associated with higher risks for a string of cancers². For example, those with AB and A blood types are more likely to develop stomach cancer according to a recent study published in BioMed Central Cancer³. Additionally, experts from the University of Pennsylvania have reported that those with A, B, and AB blood types also have a 6% greater risk of developing coronary heart disease; the same blood types are also linked to an 82% greater likelihood of developing memory issues, compared to Type O.⁴

According to the National Voluntary Blood Services Program (NVBSP) under the Department of Health (DOH), the most common blood type in the country is Blood Group O, followed by A, then B, and AB. More than 99 percent of Filipinos are Rh positive, while less than one percent have Rh-negative blood.⁵ However, despite the significant role our blood can play in our health, many Filipinos still do not know their blood types unless they have undergone a procedure that requires such a test. Having this information readily indicated in an accessible document, such as one's birth certificate, will make a huge difference in saving someone's life.

This bill seeks to mandate the inclusion of blood type in certificates of live birth issued by the Local Registrar's Office or the Philippine Statistics Authority. This measure hopes to increase awareness of blood type and blood type-related health information for every Filipino so they can better protect their health and wellbeing.

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



REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

² The Harvard Gazette. 2009. <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/03/blood-types-indicate-greater-risk-for-cancer/> (Accessed Online 8 November 2022)

³ Mao, Y., Yang, W., Qi, Q. et al. Blood groups A and AB are associated with increased gastric cancer risk: evidence from a large genetic study and systematic review. BMC Cancer 19, 164 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12885-019-5355-4> (Accessed Online 8 November 2022)

⁴ University of Pennsylvania. 2020. "What Does Your Blood Type Have to Do With Your Health?". <https://www.pennmedicine.org/updates/blogs/health-and-wellness/2019/april/blood-types> (Accessed Online 8 November 2022)

⁵ Department of Health. <https://doh.gov.ph/node/1447> (Accessed 27 October 2022)

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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 “*Blood Type in Birth Certificates Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall establish an effective system that will promote awareness and knowledge of health and medical information in important documents, such as birth records.

SECTION 3. *Inclusion of Blood Type in Birth Certificates.* – All birth certificates issued by the Local Registrar’s Office or the Philippine Statistics Authority shall indicate the blood type of the individual. For purposes of this Act, an individual’s blood type must be duly certified by a pathologist.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Philippine Statistics Authority and the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with local government units and other appropriate government agencies, shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Department of Health, in coordination with local government units and other appropriate government agencies, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decree or issuance, executive orders, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule and regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,