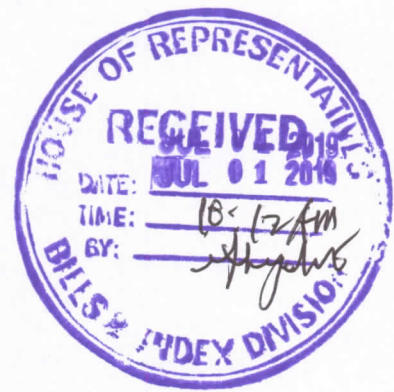


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 172



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE MANDATORY BASIC IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AND
PROVIDING A SYSTEM IN THE DETERMINATION OF OTHER TYPES OF VACCINE
PREVENTABLE DISEASES, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10152, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10152 or the "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011" was primarily enacted to protect infants and children against common and vaccine-preventable diseases.

In particular, it seeks to address newborns and children infected with hepatitis-B virus and mandated immunization for tuberculosis; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; poliomyelitis; measles; mumps; rubella or German measles; hepatitis-B; and H. Influenza type B (HIB).

The landmark law also empowered the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) to determine such other types of vaccine-preventable diseases in a department circular. To put it otherwise, R.A. 10152 gives the Secretary of Health unfettered discretion to expand the list of vaccine-preventable diseases.

The *Dengvaxia* controversy has recently placed under the spotlight the government's vaccination program, bringing to the fore the policy of empowering the Secretary of Health to overrule reservations of the Formulary Executive Council (FEC), a panel of top Filipino experts tasked to identify the diseases for which medicines need to be included in the formulary based on a continuing review of disease statistics from public and private hospitals and other health facilities.

In this light, this bill proposes to limit the power of the Secretary of Health to determine other types of vaccine-preventable diseases by requiring the recommendation of the FEC and presentation before the joint committee hearing of the Committee on Health and Demography of the Senate and the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives.

This proposal also seeks to include rotavirus, Japanese encephalitis, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, and human papilloma virus in the list of vaccine-preventable diseases and requires the submission of an annual report to ensure the efficient, economical, and effective implementation of the law.

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


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10152 or the "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. Coverage. - The mandatory basic immunization for all infants and children provided under this Act shall cover the following vaccine-preventable diseases:

- (a) Tuberculosis;
- (b) Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis;
- (c) Poliomyelitis;
- (d) Measles;
- (e) Mumps;
- (f) Rubella or German measles;
- (g) Hepatitis-B;
- (h) H. Influenza type B (HIB); [and]
- (i) ROTAVIRUS;
- (j) JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS;
- (k) PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE (PCV);
- (l) HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV); AND

[i] "(M) Such other types as may be determined by the Secretary of Health in a department circular UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FORMULARY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC) AND THE NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION COMMITTEE (NIC) CREATED AS ADVISORY GROUP TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE SETTING OF A DOH POLICY DIRECTION ON THE NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (NIP), AND AFTER SEPARATE OR JOINT PUBLIC HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY OF THE SENATE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. *PROVIDED, THAT* WHEN THERE IS PANDEMIC AND WHEN THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT IN SESSION, THE SAID PUBLIC HEARINGS NEED NOT BE CONDUCTED."

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SEC. 2. A new section to be numbered as Section 7 is hereby added to read as follows:

'SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT. – THE DOH SHALL SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON OR BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR, OR UPON THE REQUEST OF ANY OF THE AFORESAID COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS, A REPORT GIVING A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.'

SEC. 3. Section 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the same Act are hereby renumbered as 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 respectively.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,