

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
H.B No. 3039

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Representative Harry L. Roque Jr.

AN ACT
DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT PILOT STUDIES
TO DETERMINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS WHICH MAY CAUSE
ACQUIRED BONE MARROW FAILURE DISEASES

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.

The bone marrow failure in both children and adults can either be inherited or acquired. However, in children, inherited bone marrow failure is often the cause. On the other hand, older children acquire the disease at an older age.¹

People who work with chemicals such as benzene, which is derived from coal and petroleum and found in gasoline and other fuels, could reportedly be a factor in causing the illness. Other factors include radiation or chemotherapy treatments and immune system problems.²

¹ "Bone Marrow Failure In Children". *Drug Information Online, Drugs.com.*

²*Id.*

Thus, this bill directs the Secretary of the Department of Health to conduct pilot studies to determine the environmental factors which may cause acquired bone marrow failure diseases.³



HARRY L. ROQUE JR.

³ This bill is based on H.R. 1230 filed by U.S. Representative Doris Matsui during the 111th Congress, 2nd Session, and refiled by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago in the Sixteenth Congress, 2nd Session.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. 3039

Introduced by Representative Harry L. Roque Jr.

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

1 AN ACT
2 DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT PILOT STUDIES
3 TO DETERMINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS WHICH MAY CAUSE
4 ACQUIRED BONE MARROW FAILURE DISEASES

5 SECTION 1. *Pilot Studies.*— The Secretary of Health shall conduct pilot studies to
6 determine which environmental factors, including exposure to toxins, may cause acquired
7 bone marrow failure diseases.

8 SECTION 2. *Programs on Acquired Bone Marrow Failure Diseases.* —

9 (a) *Information and Referral Services.* —

10 (1) *In General.* — Not later than six (6) months after the date of effectivity
11 of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall establish and coordinate outreach and
12 informational programs targeted to minority populations affected by acquired bone
13 marrow failure diseases.

14 (2) *Program Requirements.* — Outreach and informational programs
15 authorized by this Act:

1 (A) shall make information about treatment options and clinical
2 trials for acquired bone marrow failure diseases publicly available, and

3 (B) shall provide referral services for treatment options and clinical
4 trials by means of the Department of Health's website and through
5 appropriate programs.

6 (b) *Grants and Cooperative Agreements.* –

7 (1) *In General.* – Not later than six (6) months after the date of effectivity
8 of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall award grants to, or enter into cooperative
9 agreements with, entities to perform research on acquired bone marrow failure
10 diseases.

11 (2) *Requirement.* – Grants and cooperative agreements authorized by this
12 subsection shall be awarded or entered into on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis.

13 (3) *Scope of Research.* – Research funded under this Act shall examine
14 factors affecting the incidence of acquired bone marrow failure diseases in
15 minority populations.

16 (c) *Definition.* – In this Act, the term “acquired bone marrow failure disease”
17 means myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS); aplastic anemia; paroxysmal nocturnal
18 hemoglobinuria (PNH); pure red cell aplasia; acute myeloid leukemia that has progressed
19 from myelodysplastic syndromes; large granular lymphocytic leukemia; or any other
20 bone marrow failure disease specified by the Secretary of Health, to the extent such
21 disease is acquired and not inherited, as determined by the Secretary.

1 SECTION3. *Diagnosis and Quality of Care for Acquired Bone Marrow Failure*
2 *Diseases.* –

3 (a) *Grants.* – The Secretary of Health shall award grants to entities to improve
4 diagnostic practices and quality of care with respect to patients with acquired bone
5 marrow failure diseases.

6 SECTION 4. *Authorization of Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this
7 Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each
8 fiscal year.

9 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
10 unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
11 effect.

12 SECTION6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations,
13 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

14 SECTION7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

 Approved,