

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2859

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

DATE: 11 AUG 2016

TIME: 11:45 AM

BY: Jorale

REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by REP. EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides that:

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

There are several health problems associated with computer use. All of them are avoidable, through the use of ergonomic principles. Ergonomics is the science of fitting the job to the worker, rather than expecting workers to accommodate themselves to uncomfortable equipment, postures, and work organization.

As with any task done repeatedly, working on a computer for long periods of time can cause inflammation of tendons, nerve sheaths and ligaments and damage to soft tissues.

Depending on an individual's sensitivity to the repeated movements of keyboarding, the cumulative effect can be disabling. Resulting conditions are called cumulative trauma disorders (CTDs). Different types of forearm and wrist CTDs from computer use are carpal tunnel syndrome, tenosynovitis, epicondylitis, tendinitis, DeQuervain's disease and ganglionic cysts.

Neck and shoulder pain and stiffness can occur from improper placement of the computer monitor, mouse or document one is working with. If these items are not placed correctly, the muscles of the neck and shoulders are constantly working to keep the head and arms in an awkward position. Many people who use computers for prolonged periods of time complain of eyestrain, eye fatigue, eye irritation and blurred vision.

This bill seeks to ensure that companies put in place policies that will help their employees avoid health risks related to computer use.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate adoption of this measure is earnestly requested.


EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO 

- 1 e. Defective computer screens that flicker or wave must be repaired as soon as
2 possible and the employee must not be forced to work with a defective computer
3 monitor;
- 4 f. Employees who regularly work in front of computer monitors must be allowed to
5 rest their eyes on a regular basis; and
- 6 g. Every company must hold an ergonomic standard seminar where a representative
7 from the Department of Health shall talk about the details of this Act and give
8 other means to lessen the health strain caused by computers in the workplace.

9 SECTION 3. *Duty of the Department of Labor and Employment.* - The Department of
10 Labor and Employment is required to verify the compliance of employers with the provisions
11 of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. *Penalties.* - The Department of Labor and Employment is empowered to
13 establish and assess penalties or fines against any person for violations of this Act or
14 regulations adopted under this Act. In no case shall the fine exceed One Hundred Thousand
15 Pesos (P100,000).

16 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions
18 hereof.

19 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
20 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is
21 inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
22 accordingly.

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

Approved,