



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

19 JAN 29 A10:24

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**SENATE**

**Committee Report No. 582**

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Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography, and Finance JAN 29 2019

Re: Senate Bill No. 2186

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1647 and 1864, taking into consideration House Bill No. 7134.

Sponsor: **Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito**

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**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committees on Health and Demography, and Finance to which were referred Senate Bill No. 1647, introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Joel Villanueva and Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, entitled:

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON  
SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES,  
EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH RELATED EVENTS, AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3573 ENTITLED, 'AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF  
DANGEROUS COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Senate Bill No. 1864, introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros, entitled:

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON  
SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES,  
EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN,**

**AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573 ENTITLED, AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF DANGEROUS COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

and House Bill No. 7134, introduced by Representatives Angelina Tan, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Pablo C. Ortega, et. al., entitled:

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAW ON REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

have considered the same and have the honor to report back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached Senate Bill No. 2186, prepared by the Committees, entitled:

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAW ON REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES"**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1647 and 1864, taking into consideration House Bill No. 7134 with Senators Ejercito, Villanueva, Binay and Hontiveros as authors thereof.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

**Chairpersons:**

  
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Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Health  
and Demography

  
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Committee on Finance

  
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**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**  
*Senate President*

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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S E N A T E  
S.B. No. 2186

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(In substitution of S.B. Nos. 1647 and 1864, taking into consideration House Bill No. 7134)

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Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography, and Finance with Senators Ejercito, Villanueva, Binay and Hontiveros as authors thereof

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON  
SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES,  
EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE  
PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAW ON  
REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES"**

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

- 1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act".
- 2
- 3       **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. It shall endeavor to protect the people from public health threats through the efficient and effective disease surveillance of notifiable diseases including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, diseases for elimination and eradication, epidemics, and health events including chemical, radio-nuclear and environmental agents of public health concern and provide an effective response system in compliance with the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR)
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1 of the World Health Organization (WHO). The State recognizes epidemics and other  
2 public health emergencies as threats to public health and national security, which  
3 can undermine the social, economic, and political functions of the State.

4 The State also recognizes disease surveillance and response systems of the  
5 Department of Health (DOH) and its local counterparts, as the first line of defense to  
6 epidemics and health events of public health concern that pose risk to public health  
7 and security.

8 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

9 (a) *Disease* refers to an illness due to a specific toxic substance, occupational  
10 exposure or infectious agent, which affects a susceptible individual, either directly or  
11 indirectly, as from an infected animal or person, or indirectly through an  
12 intermediate host, vector, or the environment;

13 (b) *Disease control* refers to the reduction of disease incidence, prevalence,  
14 morbidity or mortality to a locally acceptable level as a result of deliberate efforts  
15 and continued intervention measures to maintain the reduction;

16 (c) *Disease surveillance* refers to the ongoing systematic collection, analysis,  
17 interpretation, and dissemination of outcome-specific data for use in the planning,  
18 implementation, and evaluation of public health practice. A disease surveillance  
19 system includes the functional capacity for data analysis as well as the timely  
20 dissemination of these data to persons who can undertake effective prevention and  
21 control activities;

22 (d) *Emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases* refer to diseases that (1)  
23 have not occurred in humans before; (2) have occurred previously but affected only  
24 small numbers of people in isolated areas; (3) have occurred throughout human  
25 history but have only recently been recognized as a distant disease due to an  
26 infectious agent; (4) are caused by previously undetected or unknown infectious  
27 agents; (5) are due to mutant or resistant strains of a causative organism; and (6)  
28 once were major health problems in the country, and then declined dramatically, but  
29 are again becoming health problems for a significant proportion of the population;

30 (e) *Epidemic /outbreak* refers to an occurrence of more cases of disease than  
31 normally expected within a specific place or group of people over a given period of  
32 time;

1       (f) *Epidemiologic investigation* refers to an inquiry to the incidence,  
2 prevalence, extent, source, mode of transmission, causation of, and other  
3 information pertinent to a disease occurrence;

4       (g) *Health event of public health concern* refers to either a public health  
5 emergency or a public health threat due to biological, chemical, radio-nuclear and  
6 environmental agents;

7       (h) *Infectious disease* refers to a clinically manifested disease of humans or  
8 animals resulting from an infection;

9       (i) *Mandatory reporting* refers to the obligatory reporting of a condition to  
10 local or state health authorities, as required for notifiable diseases, epidemics or  
11 public health events of public health concern;

12       (j) *Notifiable disease* refers to a disease that, by legal requirements, must be  
13 reported to the public health authorities;

14       (k) *Public health authority* refers to the DOH (specifically the Epidemiology  
15 Bureau, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Bureau of Quarantine and  
16 International Health Surveillance, Health Emergency Management Bureau, Food and  
17 Drug Administration, government hospitals, Research Institute of Tropical Medicine  
18 and other National Reference Laboratories, and DOH Regional Offices), the local  
19 health office (provincial, city or municipality), or any person directly authorized to  
20 act on behalf of the DOH or the local health office;

21       (l) *Public health emergency* refers to an occurrence or imminent threat of an  
22 illness or health condition that:

23           (1) Is caused by any of the following:

24              (i) Bioterrorism;  
25              (ii) Appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated  
26                  infectious agent or biological toxin;

27              (iii) A natural disaster;

28              (iv) A chemical attack or accidental release;

29              (v) A nuclear attack or accident; or

30              (vi) An attack or accidental release of radioactive materials; and

31           (2) Poses a high probability of any of the following:

- (i) A large number of deaths in the affected population;
- (ii) A large number of serious injuries or long-term disabilities in the affected population;
- (iii) Widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people in the affected population;
- (iv) International exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk to the health of citizens of other countries; or
- (v) Trade and travel restrictions;

(m) *Public health threat* refers to any situation or factor that may represent a danger to the health of the people; and

(n) *Response* refers to the implementation of specific activities to control further spread of infection, outbreaks or epidemics and prevent re-occurrence. It includes verification, contact tracing, rapid risk assessment, case measures, treatment of patients, risk communication, conduct of prevention activities, and rehabilitation.

**SEC. 4. *Objectives.*** – This Act shall have the following objectives:

(a) To continuously develop and upgrade the list of nationally notifiable diseases and health events of public health concern with their corresponding case definitions and laboratory confirmation;

(b) To ensure the establishment and maintenance of relevant, efficient and effective disease surveillance and response system at the national and local levels;

(c) To expand collaborations beyond traditional public health partners to include others who may be involved in the disease surveillance and response, such as agricultural agencies, veterinarians, environmental agencies, law enforcement entities, and transportation and communication agencies, among others;

(d) To provide accurate and timely health information about notifiable diseases, and health-related events and conditions to citizens and health providers as an integral part of response to public health emergencies;

(e) To establish effective mechanisms for strong collaboration with national and local government health agencies to ensure proper procedures are in place to promptly respond to reports of notifiable diseases and health events of public health

1 concern, including case investigations, treatment, and control and containment,  
2 including follow-up activities;

3 (f) To ensure that public health authorities have the statutory and regulatory  
4 authority to ensure the following:

5 (1) Mandatory reporting of reportable diseases and health events of public  
6 health concern;

7 (2) Epidemic/outbreaks and/or epidemiologic investigation, case investigations,  
8 patient interviews, review of medical records, contact tracing, specimen  
9 collection and testing, risk assessments, laboratory investigation, population  
10 surveys, and environmental investigation;

11 (3) Quarantine and isolation; and

12 (4) Rapid containment and implementation of measures for disease prevention  
13 and control;

14 (g) To provide sufficient funding to support operations need to establish and  
15 maintain epidemiology and surveillance units at the DOH, health facilities and local  
16 government units; efficiently and effectively investigate outbreaks and health events  
17 of public health concern; validate, collect, analyze and disseminate disease  
18 surveillance information to relevant agencies or organizations; and implement  
19 appropriate response;

20 (h) To require public and private physicians, allied medical personnel,  
21 professional societies, hospitals, clinics, health facilities, laboratories, pharmaceutical  
22 companies, private companies and institutions, workplaces, schools, prisons, ports,  
23 airports, establishments, communities, other government agencies, and non-  
24 government organizations to actively participate in disease surveillance and  
25 response; and

26 (i) To respect to the fullest extent possible, the rights of people to liberty,  
27 bodily integrity, and privacy while maintaining and preserving public health and  
28 security.

29 **SEC. 5. *Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health***

30 **Concern.** – The Epidemiology Bureau under the DOH shall regularly update and  
31 issue a list of nationally notifiable diseases and health events of public health  
32 concern with their corresponding case definitions. The selection and the deletion of

1 diseases and health events of public health concern shall be based on criteria  
2 established by the DOH.

3       **SEC. 6. Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health**  
4       **Events of Public Concern.** – The DOH, through the Epidemiology Bureau, shall  
5 issue the official list of institutionalized public health information system, disease  
6 surveillance and response systems for mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases  
7 and health events of public concern provided in Section 5 of this Act. This official list  
8 shall include the Field Health Service Information System (FHSIS), the Philippine  
9 Integrated Disease Surveillance Response (PIDS) System with its Case-based  
10 Surveillance and Event-based Surveillance, and other duly institutionalized public  
11 health disease surveillance and response systems of the DOH.

12       Under this Act:

13           (a) The DOH and its local counterparts are mandated to implement the  
14 mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases and health events of public health  
15 concern.

16           (b) The DOH and its local counterparts shall establish and maintain functional  
17 disease surveillance and response systems, which include coordination mechanisms,  
18 implementation protocols for reporting and response, measures for data security and  
19 confidentiality, and procedures and provision to ensure safety of personnel  
20 conducting disease surveillance and response activities;

21           (c) All public and private physicians, allied medical personnel, professional  
22 societies, hospitals, clinics, health facilities, laboratories, institutions, workplaces,  
23 schools, prisons, ports, airports, establishments, communities, other government  
24 agencies, and non-government organizations are required to accurately and  
25 immediately report notifiable diseases and health events of public health concern as  
26 issued by the DOH;

27           (d) Data collection, analysis, and the dissemination of information from official  
28 disease surveillance and response systems can only be done by authorized personnel  
29 from the DOH and its local counterparts and may only be used for public health  
30 concern purposes only; thus, should be exempted in the provision of Data Privacy  
31 Act on accessibility of data;

1       (e) To perform their disease surveillance and response functions, authorized  
2 health personnel from the DOH and its local counterparts have the statutory and  
3 regulatory authority to enforce the following:

4           (1) Establishment of public health information system disease surveillance and  
5 response systems in private and public facilities deemed necessary to protect the  
6 health of the population in coordination with the DOH-Epidemiology Bureau;

7           (2) Mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases and health events of public  
8 health concern;

9           (3) Conduct of epidemic/outbreak and epidemiologic investigations, case  
10 investigations, patient interviews, review of medical records, contact tracing,  
11 collection, storage, transport and testing of samples and specimen, risk  
12 assessments, laboratory investigation, population surveys, and environmental  
13 investigation;

14           (4) Rapid containment, quarantine and isolation, disease prevention and  
15 control measures, and product recall;

16           (5) Response activities for events of public health concern;

17       (f) The DOH and its local counterparts shall ensure that all surveillance and  
18 response officers have adequate capacity for mandatory reporting of notifiable  
19 diseases, risk assessment, epidemiology, disease surveillance, and response to  
20 epidemics and health events of public health concern. It shall also ensure that the  
21 safety and protection of all personnel directly involved in surveillance and response  
22 activities are upheld; and

23       (g) All personnel of the DOH and its local counterparts, and all other  
24 individuals or entities involved in conducting disease surveillance and response  
25 activities shall respect, to the fullest extent possible, the rights of people to liberty,  
26 bodily integrity, and privacy while maintaining and preserving public health and  
27 security.

28           **SEC. 7. Declaration of Epidemic or Public Health Emergency.** – The  
29 Secretary of Health shall have the authority to declare epidemics of national and/or  
30 international concerns except when the same threatens national security. In which  
31 case, the President of the Republic of the Philippines shall declare a State of Public

1 Health Emergency and mobilize governmental and non-governmental agencies to  
2 respond to the threat.

3 Provincial, city or municipal health offices may only declare a disease  
4 outbreak within their respective localities provided the declaration is supported by  
5 sufficient scientific evidence based on disease surveillance data, epidemiologic  
6 investigation, environmental investigation, and laboratory investigation.

7 **SEC. 8. *Establishment of Epidemiology and Surveillance Units.*** –  
8 The DOH, in coordination with the local government units, shall ensure that the  
9 Epidemiology and Surveillance Units (ESUs) are established and functional in all  
10 levels of the DOH and its local counterparts, and in public and private health facilities  
11 and laboratories, as well as ports and airports in all provinces, cities and  
12 municipalities throughout the country. The ESU shall capture and verify all reported  
13 notifiable diseases and health events of public health concern; provide timely,  
14 accurate, and reliable epidemiologic information to appropriate agencies; conduct  
15 disease surveillance and response activities; coordinate needed response; and  
16 facilitate capacity building in the field of epidemiology, disease surveillance and  
17 response at the Epidemiology Bureau (EB).

18 All ESUs shall have trained required human resource complement and provision  
19 of adequate resources, including equipment, logistics, communication,  
20 transportation, laboratory supplies and reagents, personal protective equipment and  
21 health insurance, to effectively perform their disease surveillance and response  
22 functions.

23 **SEC. 9. *Prohibited Acts.*** – The following shall be prohibited under this Act:

24 (a) Unauthorized disclosure of private and confidential information pertaining  
25 to a patient's medical condition or treatment;

26 (b) Tampering of records or intentionally providing misinformation;

27 (c) Non-operation of the disease surveillance and response systems;

28 (d) Non-cooperation of persons and entities that should report and/or respond  
29 to notifiable diseases or health events of public concern; and

30 (e) Non-cooperation of the person or entities identified as having the notifiable  
31 disease, or affected by the health event of public concern.

1 Disclosure of confidential information will not be considered violation of this act  
2 under this Section if the disclosure was made to comply with a legal order issued by  
3 a court of law with competent jurisdiction.

4       **SEC. 10. *Penalties.*** – Any person or entity found to have violated Section 9  
5 of this Act shall be penalized with a fine of not less than twenty thousand pesos  
6 (P20,000.00) but not more than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) or imprisonment  
7 of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months, or both such fine  
8 and imprisonment, at the discretion of the proper court.

9           The Professional Regulation Commission shall have the authority to suspend or  
10 revoke the license to practice of any medical professional for any violation of this  
11 Act.

12           The Civil Service Commission shall have the authority to suspend or revoke the  
13 civil service eligibility of a public servant who is in violation of this Act.

14           If the offense is committed by a public or private health facility, institution,  
15 agency, corporation, school, or other juridical entity duly organized in accordance  
16 with law, the chief executive officer, president, general manager, or such other  
17 officer in charge shall be held liable. In addition, the business permit and license to  
18 operate of the concerned facility, institution, agency, corporation, school, or legal  
19 entity shall be cancelled.

20       **SEC. 11. *Appropriations.*** – The amount needed for the initial  
21 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations  
22 of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued  
23 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations  
24 Act.

25       **SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DOH shall issue the  
26 implementing rules and regulations for this Act within one hundred twenty (120)  
27 days after the approval of this Act.

28       **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section or provision of this Act is  
29 held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in  
30 full force and effect.

31       **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** – Act No. 3573, otherwise known as the "Law  
32 on Reporting of Communicable Diseases", is hereby repealed. All laws, decrees,

1 orders, issuances and rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the  
2 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

5       *Approved,*

6