

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 918

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Representative H. Harry L. Roque, Jr.

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HEALTH PROMOTION FUND AND HEALTH PROMOTION COMMISSION TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH PROMOTION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them (Article II, Section 15).

Subsequently, through Executive Order No. 292 entitled "The Administrative Code of the Philippines", the Department of Health (DOH) is mandated as the agency primarily responsible for the promotion, protection, preservation or restoration of the health of the people through the provision and delivery of health services and through the regulation and encouragement of providers of health goods and services (Book IV, Title IX, Chapter I).

With the enactment of Republic Act 7160, entitled "The Local Government Code of 1991", the provision of health services was devolved to local government units. This includes the implementation of programs and projects on primary health care, maternal and child care, and communicable and non-communicable disease control services; access to secondary and tertiary health services; and purchase of medicines, medical supplies, and equipment (Section 17). Furthermore, the Local Government Code mandates the Health Officer to "formulate and implement policies, plans, programs and projects to promote the health of the people in the local government unit concerned" (Section 478).

Despite these provisions that give attention to the promotion and protection of health of the people, funds for health care have traditionally been spent more on treating the sick than in keeping the population healthy. The DOH's curative approach is typically justified due to the fact that the Philippines continues to be plagued by a high prevalence of infectious diseases which call for immediate action. This has,

however, become a severe shortcoming in light of the alarming increase in the incidence of degenerative and lifestyle diseases like hypertension, cancer, accidents, and diabetes, which require long term investments to prevent.

Deaths from communicable diseases have exceeded deaths from non-communicable diseases but these are equally important. However, the need to address short term immediate health concerns, due to its nature, will always take priority over the prevention of prospective chronic diseases. In this context, the government resources to prevent lifestyle diseases will invariably be sacrificed to address urgent health concerns. In the long run, as the Philippines succeeds in providing universal coverage in health care, the government will have to bear the costs of treating the chronic diseases mentioned.

Furthermore, dealing with the prevention of lifestyle diseases require a "health promotion" approach or one that empowers people to take action to improve their health in order to reduce vulnerability and risks to ill health and disability throughout the life cycle, especially among the poor and marginalized groups. The international public health consensus is that the health promotion approach would involve not only building a healthy public policy, developing of personal skills, and reorienting health services, it would also require the creation of supportive environments and strengthening of community actions, which in turn is greatly dependent on the involvement of non-health sectors or the adoption of a "whole of government" approach.

As a signatory of the Alma-Ata Declaration, the Philippines strongly reaffirms that health, which is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal. To ensure this, the Declaration decrees that all governments should formulate national policies, strategies and plans of action to launch and sustain primary health care as part of a comprehensive national health system and in coordination with other sectors.

In many countries, a charge, in various forms, on tobacco products is utilized as a sustainable funding source for a variety of public needs, mostly involving health promotion activities. Guiding Principles and Recommendations for the implementation of Article 6 of the FCTC recommend using revenues from tobacco to dedicate revenue to tobacco-control programmes, such as those covering awareness raising, health promotion and disease prevention, and the like.

Towards this end, there is a need to mainstream health in all aspects of economic development and create an multisectoral body that would promote innovative approaches and ensure the efficient implementation of health promotion strategies. There is also an opportunity to tap funds sourced from tobacco products in order to create a fund that will promote investments in previously underfunded health

promotion strategies required to address longer term health concerns including social mobilization to promote healthy behaviors.

This bill, therefore, proposes the creation of a Health Promotion Commission to be funded from 20% of the remaining incremental revenues allocated for health pursuant to Republic Act No. 10351 shall be earmarked for this fund. Through the Health Promotion Commission, our goal of making Filipinos manage their own health will become a reality.

Thus, the immediate enactment of this measure is respectfully urged.



REP. H. HARRY L. ROQUE, JR.

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

PART I

Introductory Provisions

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4 Sec. 1. **Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Health Promotion Act of 2016”.

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6 Sec. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the
7 right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

8
9 It shall also be declared the policy of the State to ensure that people are empowered to
10 increase control over their health and its determinants for purposes of improving
11 their health.

12
13 Toward this end, the State will provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach
14 for health promotion specifically by building healthy public policies, creating
15 supporting environments, strengthening community actions; developing personal
16 skills; and reorienting health services.

17
18 Recognizing the health inequities that exist, it shall be the policy of the State to be
19 sensitive to the needs of the youth, women, poor, elderly, disabled, and the
20 marginalized sectors. In view thereof, the State shall ensure coherence and

