

Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO **5925**



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INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN ALFRED VARGAS

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution embraces, as a matter of State policy, the goal *"to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."*

The 2013 National Nutrition Survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) reported that the number of obese Filipino adults increased from 16.6 percent in 1993 to 31.1 percent in 2013. This means that three out of 10 Filipino adults are obese. Furthermore, the prevalence of obesity for Filipino children with ages five to ten are marked at five percent. The incidence of adolescent obesity (11 to 19 years old) also increased from 5.8 percent in 2003 to 8.3 percent in 2013.

Numerous studies have indicated that obesity increases risks in an individual's health, thereby also reduces a person's life expectancy. Potentially fatal conditions associated with obesity include Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, cancers, and gall bladder disease.

To protect Filipinos from this epidemic, this bill seeks to establish a research center on obesity prevention.

Recognizing obesity as a complex condition with genetic, metabolic, behavioural, and environmental factors contributing to its development, people need to be informed properly of the risks, prevention, and treatment of obesity. In this line, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED VARGAS

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**AN ACT**

**MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A RESEARCH CENTER ON OBESITY PREVENTION**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Obesity Prevention Act.**”

**SEC. 2. Overweight and Obesity Defined.** – As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms overweight and obesity are defined as the abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that presents a risk to health. A crude population measure of obesity is the body mass index (BMI), a person’s weight in kilograms divided by the square of the individual’s height in meters. An overweight and obese person also suffers from one or more of the following conditions or diseases: (1) Type II Diabetes; (2) Impaired glucose tolerance; (3) Hyperinsulinemia; (4) Dyslipidemia; (5) Hypertension; (6) Cardiovascular disease; (7) Cerebrovascular disease; (8) Osteoarthritis of the hips or knees; (9) Sleep apnea; (10) Gastric reflux disease; or (11) Gall bladder disease.

**SEC. 3. Establishment of Research Center by the Department of Health.** – The Obesity Prevention Research Center to be established by the Department of Health (DOH) is authorized to sample and collect data on individual cases where obesity is being actively treated and to analyze such data in order to evaluate the impact of treating obesity. Such data collection and analysis shall include the following:

- a. The epidemiology, risk factors, screening and diagnosis, complications, and control of obesity in Filipino adults, adolescents, and children;
- b. The effectiveness of existing methods for treating or preventing obesity;
- c. The effectiveness of alternate methods for treating or preventing obesity;
- d. The fiscal impact of treating or preventing obesity;
- e. The compliance and cooperation of patients with various methods of treating or preventing obesity; or
- f. The reduction in serious medical problems associated with diabetes that results from treating or preventing obesity.

**SEC. 4. Fund.** – The DOH is authorized to fund the research center authorized in this Act from gifts, grants, and donations from individuals, private organizations, foundations, or any governmental unit; except that no gift, grant, or donation may be accepted by the DOH if it is subject to conditions that are inconsistent with this Act or any other laws of this State. The DOH shall have the power to direct the disposition of any such gift, grant, or donation for the purposes of this Act.

After completion of the research, the DOH shall submit a report and supporting materials to the legislature by June 1 of the following year.

**SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette and/or in newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,