

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8191, June 11, 1996 ]**

**AN ACT PRESCRIBING MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DIABETES *MELLITUS* IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DIABETES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "National Diabetes Act of 1996."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children.

SEC. 3. *The National Commission on Diabetes.* – There is hereby created a National Commission on Diabetes, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," which shall be composed of nine (9) members, as follows: one (1) shall be a practising clinical diabetologist, one (1) shall be a licensed physician involved in research and education on diabetes, one (1) shall be an epidemiologist, one (1) shall be a nutritionist with experience in the control of diabetes, one (1) shall be a social scientist, one (1) shall come from a non-government organization engaged in the prevention and treatment of diabetes, one (1) shall come from the academe and one (1) shall be a diabetic with a record of public service in reducing the impact of the disease on affected individuals and their families. The Undersecretary for Public Health Services shall serve as the *ex officio* chairperson of the Commission.

The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President within thirty (30) days from the promulgation of the rules and regulations as specified in Section 14 of this Act, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Health. Each member shall be entitled to a monthly *honorarium* to be determined by the Secretary of Health subject to the pertinent budgetary laws, rules and regulations on compensation, honoraria and allowances.

The Commission shall be attached to the Department of Health (DOH) for administrative, technical and budgetary purposes.

SEC. 4. *Duties and Functions.* – The Commission shall:

- a. assess the social and economic impact of diabetes mellitus on individuals, families, households, communities and the nation;

- b. evaluate the adequacy of national resources devoted to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diabetes mellitus; and
- c. formulate, in accordance with Section 7 of this Act, the National Diabetes Prevention and Control Plan.

SEC. 5. *Meetings.* – The Commission shall meet not later than thirty (30) days after it has been fully constituted and not less frequently than every month thereafter at the call of the chairperson of the Commission.

SEC. 6. *Secretariat and Technical Staff.* – The Commission shall have a secretariat and technical staff to provide administrative support and technical assistance to the Commission to effectively carry out its functions.

SEC. 7. *The National Diabetes Prevention and Control Plan.* – The long range national plan for the prevention and control of diabetes *mellitus* shall provide for:

- a. the development of strategies and programs, including awareness campaigns and the continuing education of health personnel and concerned individuals, to prevent diabetes *mellitus* and its complications;
- b. the adoption of cost-effective and appropriate screening methods for the detection of diabetes *mellitus* in its early or pre-symptomatic stages;
- c. the investigations into the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of diabetes *mellitus*;
- d. the evaluation of measures employed, including drug and diet therapies, in the control of diabetes *mellitus*;
- e. the establishment of mechanisms to reduce the socioeconomic impact of diabetes *mellitus* on affected individuals and families;
- f. the granting of incentives and support for organizations of affected individuals and families;
- g. the establishment of coordinated health systems, which shall involve clinicians, researchers, allied health professionals, community-based health workers and lay volunteers, for dealing with diabetes *mellitus* and its complications;
- h. the participation of local government units, alongside with concerned government agencies and non-government organizations, in the implementation of programs on diabetes prevention and control;
- i. the periodic review of research needs and potential in the control of diabetes *mellitus*;
- j. the systematic utilization of public and private resources to achieve the objectives enumerated above; and
- k. the recommendation of the Commission for legislation.