

(S. B. 211)

(No. 4)

(Approved March 19, 2005)

AN ACT

To designate the month of March of each year as “DVT Prevention Month in Puerto Rico” in order to create awareness, educate and forewarn our citizenry on venous thrombosis.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

It has been estimated that two million (2,000,000) Americans suffer from DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) each year. DVT is a blood clot that is formed in the large veins of the upper or lower extremities, and if it should break loose and move through the bloodstream to the lungs, it could cause a pulmonary embolism (PE) that can be fatal. Furthermore, complications from DVT have caused 200,000 deaths, more than AIDS and breast cancer combined.

It is necessary to indicate that pulmonary embolism (PE), a result of DVT, is recognized as the most common cause of death in hospitals and it can be prevented. DVT has become a national public health crisis.

In order to create awareness, educate and prevent this medical condition, the coalition in the United States (Coalition to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis) has established the month of March as DVT month. In support to this effort, key persons in hospitals throughout the American Nation are working to increase awareness of this condition and how to prevent it.

For all that is stated above, this Legislature deems it necessary to designate the month of March of each year as the “DVT Prevention Month

in Puerto Rico,” in order to create awareness, educate and warn our citizenry about vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- The month of March of each year is hereby designated as “DVT Prevention Month in Puerto Rico,” in order to create awareness, educate and warn our citizenry regarding vein thrombosis.

Section 2.- The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall issue an annual proclamation each year and not less than ten (10) days before the beginning of this month to exhort the people of Puerto Rico to join in the celebration provided in this Act.

Section 3.- The Department of the Family, the Office for Elderly Affairs, the Office of the Women’s Affairs, the Department of Education, as well as other bodies and public entities, and the municipalities of Puerto Rico shall adopt the measures needed to attain of the objectives of this Act, by organizing and conducting activities to observe the “DVT Prevention Month in Puerto Rico.”

Section 4.- A copy of the Annual Proclamation shall be distributed to the mass communication media of the Island for its diffusion and publication.

Section 5.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 4 (S.B. 211) of the 1st Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to designate the month of March of each year as “DVT Prevention Month in Puerto Rico” in order to create awareness, educate and forewarn our citizenry on venous thrombosis,

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 10th of June of 2005.

Luis E. Fusté-Lacourt
Director

