

(H.B. 2560)

**(No. 129)**

(Approved July 20, 2006)

## **AN ACT**

To declare the month of May of each year as “The Renal Health Promotion and Renal Disease Prevention Month.”

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

Kidney disease is a condition caused by the almost total inability of the kidneys to function and thus as a consequence this creates an accumulation of poisonous substances in the body and in the blood system. If not treated it may result in death. Usually the paralysis of kidney functions takes a long time in happening, although at times it may occur rapidly. The main causes of kidney function paralysis are diabetes, hypertension, glomerulonephritis and polycystic diseases.

Our kidneys are the organs responsible for eliminating our bodily wastes. These bodily wastes are the product of the normal metabolic processes of the food we ingest.

The kidneys are also responsible for eliminating the byproducts of the medications we take, and thus prevent them from accumulating in our blood. Besides these functions, the kidneys also regulate the amount of salt excreted through our urine, a most important function for preventing the accumulation of liquids in our body and maintaining the normal concentration of many minerals in the blood.

Lastly, the kidneys also produce several important hormones for our health such as vitamin D and erythropoietin, the hormone which controls the production of red blood cells in the bone marrow. Should a disease alter these renal functions, our bodies will suffer many changes that may lead to the death of the person if no treatment is given.

For these reasons it becomes necessary to make our citizens conscious of the importance of preventing renal disease. We must create consciousness as to the effect of these conditions and the correct means of preventing them.

Diabetes and high blood pressure are the two most common causes of renal disease. If a person suffers from one of these medical problems, he/she must be under medical care since careful control of the blood pressure and of the concentration of sugar in the blood, as well as a diet low in proteins and bodily weight reduction may notably decrease, or even prevent the development of chronic renal disease. As our parents taught us, it is best to prevent than to cure. This is quite true in the case of renal disease caused by diabetes or high blood pressure. The sooner these conditions are treated the greater shall be the possibility of preventing chronic renal insufficiency.

Through this means we wish to promote consciousness about renal problems, their consequences and the importance of preventing these conditions. To those ends we hereby declare the month of May of each year as “The Renal Health Promotion and Renal Disease Prevention Month.”

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:**

Section 1.-The month of May of each year is hereby declared as “The Renal Health Promotion and Renal Disease Prevention Month.”

Section 2.-During that month the Department of State shall issue a proclamation to that respect and the Department of Health, in coordination with voluntary organizations, shall conduct various activities to create

consciousness as to the importance of renal health and the prevention of this disease.

Section 3.-This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 129 (H.B. 2560) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to declare the month of May of each year as “The Renal Health Promotion and Renal Disease Prevention Month”,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 1<sup>st</sup> of September of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director