



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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 268

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

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This bill seeks to establish a Cancer Treatment Center in every region in the country and appropriating funds therefore.

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

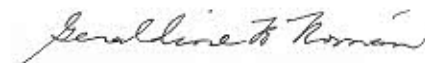
In the Philippines, cancer remains the disease most feared and stigmatized, not only because of the pain and suffering that come with the malady, but also because of the duration and high cost of treatment. Unfortunately, based on the 2010 Philippine Cancer Facts and Figures, cancer is the third leading cause of death in the country, killing an estimated 52,000 Filipinos in 2010. This statistical data was derived from only two Philippine cancer registries that are the leading source of cancer incidence data in the country – Metro Manila and Rizal province. In other words, these estimates do not include cancer cases in other parts of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

According the World Health Organization on their article **10 Facts About Cancer**, *"cancers of major public health relevance such as breast, cervical and colorectal cancer can be cured if detected early and treated adequately. All patients in need of pain relief could be helped if current knowledge about pain control and palliative care were applied. More than 30% of cancer could be prevented, mainly by not using tobacco, having healthy diet, being physically active and moderating the use of alcohol. In developing countries, up to 20% of cancer deaths could be prevented by immunization against the infection of Hepatitis B Virus and Human Papilloma Virus."* This shows that by understanding the disease and acquiring proper knowledge on prevention and early-detection, the number of cancer incidence and fatalities could significantly

decline. It is therefore safe to conclude that if developing countries like the Philippines would establish organized and sustained specialized care and preventive measures against cancer, there is a good chance that the disease could be effectively controlled.

This bill will enable Filipinos to have access to information pertaining to the prevention of cancer and, if already afflicted by the disease, to seek specialized treatment and palliative care at reduced costs. The Cancer Treatment Center also aims to establish the National Cancer Management Program which shall serve as the framework for nationwide cancer control in the country, from research to program implementation. Cancer patients from different income levels will now have an equal chance to avail of cancer-related services and facilities as there will now be a Cancer Treatment Center in every region.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
GERALDINE B. ROMAN



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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A CANCER TREATMENT CENTER IN**  
**EVERY REGION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. *Cancer Treatment Centers.*** – There is hereby established, under the supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), a Cancer Treatment Center in every region in the country, hereinafter referred to as Cancer Center.

**SEC. 2. *Objectives.*** – Each Cancer Center shall have the following objectives and functions:

- a) To provide medical services such as diagnosis, appropriate treatment and care to cancer patients, taking into account cost-effectiveness, affordability and social and ethical aspects;
- b) To promote palliative care including pain management, hospice care and other measures to improve the quality of life of cancer patients;

- c) To disseminate information and create awareness on cancer and its prevention, control and treatment options;
- d) To promote, encourage, engage and assist in scientific research on matters related to cancer;
- e) To encourage and undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of cancer related services;
- f) To manage the psychosocial and rehabilitation needs of cancer patients and their families and provide programs that include assistance to cancer survivors; and
- g) To implement the National Cancer Management Program as specified under Section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Administration.* – There shall be a Director for each Cancer Center to be appointed by the Secretary of Health, who shall administer, direct, coordinate and control its affairs. The Director shall receive compensation based on existing compensation laws and shall enjoy the rank and privileges of a director of a government hospital. Each Cancer Center shall have two (2) Assistant Directors, to be appointed by the Secretary of Health, who shall assist the Director in the management of its administrative operations. The administrative staff comprising each Cancer Center shall be in accordance with the requirements and standards of the staffing pattern set by the DOH.

The Director or Assistant Director, to be eligible for appointment, must be:

- a) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;
- b) Board certified physician who specializes in the care, treatment and management of cancer and have been practicing for at least five (5) continuous years in the Philippines as such; and
- c) Of good moral character;

SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions.* – The Director shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) To govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the Cancer Center;
- b) To develop or support patient care programs related to the appropriate care, treatment and accommodation of cancer patients;
- c) To solicit and receive donations, endowments and funds in the form of contributions, whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors, local or international, for and on behalf of the Cancer Center;
- d) To levy, collect and receive charges and fees due to the Cancer Center for goods or services provided for pay patients;
- e) To accept voluntary or uncompensated services;
- f) To appoint such other personnel and staff as may be necessary for the effective operation of the Cancer Center, subject to existing civil service laws, rules and regulations;
- g) To provide for the continued improvement of the Cancer Center and its facilities including the training of personnel so that the highest professional

levels of patient care may be maintained in accordance with the requirements of the DOH;

h) To purchase and issue medicines, supplies and materials, equipment and property required for its operation and maintenance, subject to availability of funds or appropriations therefor;

i) To account for the funds, property and other assets of the Cancer Center and to submit an Annual Financial Report to the Secretary of Health at the end of each year;

j) To promote cooperation and coordination with other medical institutions, public or private health facilities, health centers and medical service agencies for any assistance as may be required in the performance of duties; and

i) To perform such other functions as may be necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 5. *National Cancer Management Program.* – The Department of Health, in coordination with the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, shall formulate and develop a National Cancer Management Program which shall serve as a template for cancer control planning and treatment program implementation in the country and which shall contain the following:

- a) Goals and objectives;
- b) Planning tools and assessment of current situation;
- c) Capability building;
- d) Cancer control programs and strategies;

- e) Program implementation steps;
- f) Sustainable responses to challenges posed by cancer to the Filipino population; and
- g) Comprehensive approach toward the treatment, care and management of cancer on national, regional, provincial, city and municipal levels.

The DOH shall monitor the implementation of the National Cancer Management Program (NCMP) and shall submit a report to the President of the Philippines regarding the program's efficacy, suggestions and improvements not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> of December of each year. The NCMP shall be updated every five (5) years in response to new knowledge, evidence-based information, national needs and experience.

SEC. 6. *Tax Exemptions.* – All donations, contributions or endowment that may be made by any entity or person to any Cancer Center shall be exempt from all taxes, charges and fees imposed by the government or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) necessary for the initial implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be

necessary for the continued operation of the Cancer Centers and the implementation of the NCMP shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,