

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 342

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMULADEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer results when cell grow out of control and form a tumor. The cancer is very serious if the tumor begins to spread throughout the body. Of the over 200 different known cancers that afflict human, 90-95% of cases are attributed to environmental factors and 5-10% due to genetics. Common environmental factors that contribute to cancer death include tobacco, diet and obesity, infections, radiation, stress, lack of physical activity, and environmental pollutants.

Cancer has a reputation as a deadly disease. It is usually treated with chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgery. The chances of surviving the disease vary greatly by the type and location of the cancer and the extent of disease at the start of treatment. Cancer rates are expected to increase with ageing of populations and changes in lifestyles associated with economic development. In 2008, approximately 12.7 million cancers were diagnosed and 7.6 million people died of cancer worldwide. Cancers are accounted for approximately 13% of all deaths each year. This makes cancer the leading cause of death in the developed world and the second leading cause of death in the developing world including the Philippines.

This bill aims to create a Cancer Center of The Philippines because there is an urgent need to put in place cancer-control health care policies focused in strengthening the health system to cope with projected increases in cancer prevention, detection, treatment and management needs. The Center will house and nurture the above and related activities and provide care for more difficult and problematic cases. To achieve this purpose, this bill also intends to provide financial and materials support towards the establishment and maintenance of a Cancer Center for the welfare and benefit of the Filipino people.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ

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Introduced by HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMULADEZ

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CANCER CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE
PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CANCER CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Creation of the Philippine National Cancer Center.* – There is hereby created, under the supervision of the Department of Health, the Philippine National Cancer Center.

SECTION 2. *Board of Trustees.* The Philippines National Cancer Center shall be governed and its activities and properties be directed, controlled and managed, by a Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of a Chairman and six (6) members, all of whom to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Department of Health.

The members of the Board of Trustees shall serve for a period of four (4) years and until their successors shall have been appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Board, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member.

The Board shall elect a Chairman from among themselves, who shall be presiding officer of the Board of Trustees. The Director of the Philippine National Cancer Center shall serve as Vice- Chairman of the Board.

Four (4) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact business and any decision of such four (4) members on any matter duly presented to the Board of Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of the Philippine National Cancer Center.

SECTION 3. *Government Contribution.* – The Government shall contribute the necessary land, building, equipment and facilities to the Philippine National Cancer Center.

SECTION 5. *Purposes and Objectives.* – The Philippine National Cancer Center shall have the following purposes and objectives:

1. To construct, establish, equip, maintain, administer and operate a specialized hospital for diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and/or relief of cancer patients;
2. To promote medical research relative to the prevention and treatment of cancer including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, convention, seminars and conferences;
3. To create awareness on cancer prevention, treatment and control through public information dissemination;
4. To encourage the training physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of services, and related activities;
5. To assist universities, hospitals and research institutions in their studies of cancer and encourage advanced training and specialization on matters of, or affecting cancer;
6. To provide psychosocial support services and counseling to the patient and family members; and
7. To stimulate the information of other organizations for the purpose of aiding government's efforts, policies and programs relative to the purposes and objectives enumerated herein.

SECTION 6. *Powers.* – For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above enumerated purposes and objectives, the Philippine National Cancer Center, acting through its Board of Trustees, shall have the following orders and functions, among other things:

1. To contract and be contracted with:

SECTION 12. *Effect of dissolution.* – If, for any reason, the Philippine National Cancer Center is dissolved, its properties and assets remaining at the time of such dissolution shall revert to the Philippine Government for disposition in accordance with law.

SECTION 13. – *Reparability Clause.* The provisions of this Act shall be held unconstitutional; the remainder of the Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity* – This shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.


YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ