

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2960

Introduced by Honorable Anna York P. Bondoc, MD

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a national cancer center in the Province of Pampanga to be known as Philippine National Cancer Center.

This bill is in consonance with the constitutional mandate to promote and protect the right of the people to health. It is the policy of the State to secure the well-being of the people by providing them specialized health services.

The incidence of cancer in the country has become prevalent curtailing the enjoyment of normal, active and productive life. Cancer ranks third in the Philippines as a leading cause of mortality, claiming 103 lives a day or four persons every hour. The estimated incidence rate is 189 persons per 100,000 Filipinos. One (1) out of five (5) Filipinos is expected to acquire cancer up to the age of 75. Despite this fact, there is no specialized care for all cancer sites in the Philippines.

Although there are several specialized hospitals with complete facilities for cancer patients, the same are concentrated or centralized in Metro Manila primarily catering the needs of cancer patients in NCR which is one of the regions with the highest cases of cancer. However, the cancer incidents are not only prevalent in the NCR. According to the 2004 Philippine Health Statistics, the other regions with the highest prevalence of reported cases are Regions 3, 1, 6, 7 and 4. Apparently, these regions do not have cancer hospitals with sufficient equipment and facilities to cater the needs of patients suffering from cancer.

It is imperative that specialized medical services should be provided for those suffering from cancer. There is also a need to decentralize the hospitals providing services to these patients particularly in the regions outside Metro Manila. Given this, the patients will no longer have to travel from their provinces to Metro Manila to receive treatment and other needed services. The province of Pampanga is accessible to the patients from the other areas with high prevalence of cancer incidents. It is strategically located to provide services and address the cancer cases in the regions with the highest reported cases particularly in Region 3.

The establishment and maintenance of the cancer center would primarily benefit the people suffering from cancer and would also further enhance the noble undertaking of research in cancer, provide a state of the art training of medical and technical personnel and render specialized medical services for the prevention, control and treatment of cancer.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANNA YORK P. BONDOC, MD

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

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

SECTION 1. Establishment. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Health, the Philippine National Cancer Center in the Province of Pampanga, herein referred to as Cancer Center.

The Cancer Center shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, composed of seven (7) members, 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 and qualified. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Department of Health, and the appointee shall serve for the unexpired term.

SEC. 2. Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees, as provided for in the preceding section, shall have the following powers and functions:

1. To elect a Chairman from among them, who shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Trustees;
2. To appoint a Director of the Cancer Center who shall serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board;
3. To formulate policies and adopt measures which are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act;
4. To prescribe, amend, and repeal its by-laws, rules and regulations governing the manner in which the general business of the Cancer Center may be conducted and its power exercised; and
5. To perform such other functions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act.

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

SEC. 3. *Director of the Cancer Center.* The Cancer Center shall have a director who shall be its chief executive officer. The director shall have the following powers and function:

1. To appoint, remove, and fix the compensation of the personnel thereof, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees;
2. To prepare the agenda for the meeting of the Board and to submit for the consideration of the Board, policies and other importance measures;
3. To execute and administer the policies and measures approved by the Board; and
4. To direct and supervise the internal operations and administration of the Cancer Center.

SEC. 4. *Government Contributions.* The Government shall contribute the necessary land, building, equipment and facilities to the Cancer Center.

SEC. 5. *Property of the Center.* The Property of the Cancer Center shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other type of property, now owned or reserve for, or may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to the Cancer Center by the Philippine Government, its branches and instrumentalities, any foreign government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, alien or domestic, in order to carry out its purposes and objectives as set forth herein.

SEC. 6. *Purposes and Objectives.* The purposes and objectives of the Cancer Center are:

1. To construct, establish, operate and maintain a cancer center for the public welfare, including a specialized cancer hospital;
2. To create awareness of cancer prevention, control and treatment in the general public, through film showings, lectures, congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;
3. To promote, encourage, engage and assist in scientific research on the prevention, control and treatment of cancer;
4. To create cancer control programs through the collection and recording of facts about cancer incidence, and other data;
5. To gather, compile, and publish the findings of scientific researches for public dissemination;
6. To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, treatment and control of cancer, to arouse, enhance and develop public interest on cancer consciousness or awareness;
7. To develop or support patient care programs and other programs that would provide pain relief and psycho-social support for the terminally-ill cancer patient and his family;
8. To encourage and/or undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of cancer services, and related activities; and
9. To encourage the formation of other organization on the national, provincial, city, municipal or barangay level and to coordinate their various efforts and activities for the purpose of achieving a more effective programmatic approach on the common problems relative to the objectives herein enumerated; and

10. To extend medical services to the general public, to help prevent, relieve or alleviate the innumerable afflictions and maladies of the people specially the poor and less fortunate in life, without regard to race, creed, color or political belief.

SEC. 7. Powers of the Cancer Center. For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above purposes and objectives, the Cancer Center, as a body corporate, acting through its Board of Trustees, shall have all the powers pertaining to a juridical person, and is therefore authorized, among other things:

1. To acquire and hold in any property of whatever nature or description, and to dispose of such property under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance;
2. To contract and be contracted with;
3. To mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey or otherwise dispose of its properties;
4. 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;
5. To open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions, and to disburse such funds or invest the same as the Board may direct to accomplish or advance the purposes or interest of the Cancer Center;
6. To send the personnel of the Cancer Center to research or medical institutes or universities for advance training or observation and to attend international or regional conventions, conferences, congresses, seminars as the Board may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the Cancer Center;
7. To adopt a set of by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with law and the provisions hereof to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the Cancer Center; and
8. To do all such other acts and things as are or may be necessary or incidental for the accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the Cancer Center.

SEC. 8. Tax Exemptions. All donations, contributions or endowment that may be made by entities or persons to the Cancer Center shall be exempt from income and gift taxes.

The Cancer Center shall be exempt from the payment of all taxes, charges and fees imposed by the Government or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof.

SEC. 9. Assistance from government offices. The Cancer Center may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of its purposes and objectives.

SEC. 10. Appropriations. The amount of eight hundred million for the structure, equipment and initial operation and maintenance of the Cancer Center shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Health. Thereafter, such funds as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Cancer Center shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. Auditing. The books and accounts of the Cancer Center shall be subject to periodic auditing by the duly authorized representative Commission on Audit.

SEC. 12. Annual Report. The Cancer Center shall render to the Department of Health an annual report of its activities, accomplishments and recommendations.

SEC. 13. Effect of Dissolution of the Cancer Center. If for any reason, the Cancer Center is dissolved, its assets and properties remaining at the time of dissolution, shall revert to the Philippine Government for disposition in accordance with law.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.