

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1225



Introduced by HONORABLE FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer results when cells 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 humans, 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 in the Philippines because there is an urgent need to put in place cancer-control health care policies focussed on strengthening the health systems 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 problematical cases. To achieve this purpose, this bill also intends to provide material and financial 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.


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

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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 the House of Representatives 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.

Sec. 2. *Board of Trustees.* The Philippine 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 and qualified. 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 members on any matter duly presented to the Board of Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of the Philippine National Cancer Center.

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

Sec. 4. Property of the Center. – The property of the Philippine National Cancer Center shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other type of property, now owned or reserved for, or may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to, the Philippine National Cancer Center by the 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. 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, conventions, seminars, and conferences;
3. To create awareness on cancer prevention, treatment and control through public information dissemination;
4. To encourage the training of 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 formation of other organizations for the purpose of aiding government's efforts, policies and programs relative to the purposes and objectives enumerated herein.

Sec. 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 powers and functions, among other things:

1. To contract and be contracted with;
2. To adopt by-laws, rules and regulations not contrary to law to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the Philippine National Cancer Center;
3. To purchase, receive, take or grant, hold, convey, sell, lease, pledge, mortgage and otherwise deal with such property of whatever nature as the transaction of the lawful business of the Philippine National Cancer Center may reasonably and necessarily require subject to the limitations prescribed by law;
4. To invite foreign cancer specialists and similar experts in the various medical fields to train the personnel or trainees or residents of the Philippine National Cancer Center;
5. To advance the training of personnel of the Philippine National Cancer Center through international or regional to conventions, conferences, congresses, seminars to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the Philippine National Cancer Center;
6. To exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary or incidental to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Philippine National Cancer Center.

Sec. 7. Tax exemptions, etc. – All donations, contributions or endowments which may be made by entities or persons to the Philippine National Cancer Center shall be exempt from income and gift taxes.

The Philippine National 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. 8. Assistance from government offices. – The Philippine National 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. 9. Appropriations. – The amount of one billion pesos is hereby appropriated for the initial operation of the Philippine National Cancer Center which shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act. . Thereafter, the necessary amount to support the continued operation and maintenance of the Philippine National Cancer Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 10. Auditing. – The books and accounts of the Philippine National Cancer Center shall be subject to periodic auditing by the Commission on Audit.

Sec. 11. Annual report. – The Philippine National Cancer Center shall render to the Department of Health an annual report on its operations and accomplishments.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 13. Separability Clause. The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separable. If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

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