



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3867**



INTRODUCED BY: HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines.

In Region 8 (Eastern Visayas), the Eastern Visayas Medical Center (EVMC) in Tacloban City serves as a designated basic comprehensive cancer center under the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (R.A. 11215). However, geographical barriers, including the archipelagic nature of the region, limit access to cancer care for many residents.

The Samar Cancer Center Act of 2025 proposes the establishment of a complementary cancer facility in Calbayog City, Samar. The Samar Care Center will serve as a secondary hub in nearby provinces and Region VIII, focusing on accessible diagnostics, treatment, and medicines for indigent patients, while coordinating with EVMC. By decentralizing cancer care, the Center will reduce travel burdens, enhance early detection through community-based programs, and support region-specific research, aligning with the National Integrated Cancer Control Program's goal of equitable access.

Foregoing considered; the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


HON. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN
Representative, First District of Samar



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AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SAMAR CANCER CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR AS A SPECIALIZED COMPLEMENTARY FACILITY TO THE REGION 8 CANCER CENTER, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Samar Cancer Center Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The State recognizes the need to expand access to specialized cancer care in under-served areas. The establishment of the Samar Cancer Center in the Province of Samar aims to complement the existing Eastern Visayas Medical Center (EVMC) Cancer Center in Region 8 by addressing geographical barriers, enhancing service capacity, and providing targeted care for indigent patients in Samar and nearby provinces.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of the Samar Cancer Center.* A specialized cancer facility, to be known as “Samar Cancer Center” shall be established in Calbayog City, Province of Samar, under the supervision of Department of Health (DOH) and in coordination with the Eastern Visayas Medical Center (EVMC).

SECTION 4. *Objectives and Complementary Role.* The Samar Cancer Center shall:

- (a) Provide accessible and affordable cancer care services, including diagnostics, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, surgery, and palliative care, to complement the services of the EVMC Cancer Center;
- (b) Conduct community-based cancer screening, prevention, and awareness programs in coordination with local government units (LGUs);
- (c) Serve as a secondary hub for oncology training and patient referrals within Region 8.

SECTION 5. *Facilities and Services.* The Center shall be equipped with modern facilities, including:

- (a) Diagnostic equipment, such as CT scanners, radiotherapy machine or linear accelerator (LINAC), mammography, ultrasound machine, and pathology laboratories;
- (b) Treatment units for chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and minor surgical procedures;
- (c) A pharmacy providing affordable cancer medicines, integrated with the DOH’s Cancer Assistance Fund;

SECTION 6. *Administration.* The Center shall be managed by a Hospital Director to be appointed by the DOH Secretary.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of DOH shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Samar Cancer Center. The funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Community and LGU Partnerships.* The Center shall partner with LGUs and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to implement barangay-level cancer awareness, screening, and early detection programs to complement EVMC's regional efforts.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Integrated Cancer Control Council attached to the DOH, in consultation with the Provincial Government of Samar, EVMC, and other concerned stakeholders shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,