

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6155



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE PROTON BEAM THERAPY CENTER TO ADVANCE
PRECISION CANCER TREATMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer continues to be a growing public health challenge in the Philippines. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), cancers rank second or third as the leading cause of death in recent years, accounting for more than 10 percent of all registered deaths in 2023.

This high burden of cancer reflects persistent gaps in early detection, effective diagnostics, and access to advanced treatment modalities. Conventional therapies such as standard radiation can damage surrounding healthy tissue, increasing the risk of long-term complications and reducing the quality of life, particularly in vulnerable populations such as children, where minimizing collateral damage is critical.

Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) provides a scientifically proven, highly precise radiation treatment that reduces collateral exposure to healthy organs. From a public health perspective, the establishment of a local PBT facility will improve health equity, lower long-term treatment costs, and prevent costly medical migration. It will also strengthen national capacity through specialized training, research, and advanced oncology development.

The establishment of the Philippine Proton Beam Therapy Center is not just a technological upgrade but a public health imperative.

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


REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6155

INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE PROTON BEAM THERAPY CENTER TO
ADVANCE PRECISION CANCER TREATMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Proton Beam Therapy Center Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. In pursuit of this mandate, the State shall adopt an integrated, people-centered, and comprehensive approach to health development, ensuring that essential goods, health services, and medicines are accessible, affordable, and of high quality.

The State recognizes the increasing burden of cancer in the country and affirms its commitment to providing world-class, innovative, and equitable cancer care, in accordance with the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (R.A. 11215) and the Universal Health Care Act (R.A. 11223). Toward this end, the State shall pursue strategic investments that strengthen the nation’s capacity for advanced cancer diagnosis and treatment, reduce disparities in access to specialized care, and alleviate the economic and health burdens experienced by Filipino families.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) Proton Beam Therapy (PBT): An advanced form of radiation therapy that uses protons to target and destroy cancer cells with exceptional precision, minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissues and organs.
- (b) Philippine Cancer Center (PCC): The designated national cancer center and a specialty hospital as established under existing laws.
- (c) Center: Refers to the Philippine Proton Beam Therapy Center, established by this Act.
- (d) National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA): Republic Act No. 11215, which institutionalized a national integrated cancer control program.
- (e) PhilHealth: The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the Facility. — There is hereby established the Philippine Proton Beam Therapy Center (the Center), which shall be under the administrative and technical supervision of the Philippine Cancer Center (PCC). The Center shall be the primary facility for advanced proton beam therapy services in the country, accessible to all Filipino cancer patients, and shall serve as a national referral and training hub for specialized cancer treatment.

SECTION 5. Purpose and Functions. – The facility shall have the following functions:

- (a) To provide state-of-the-art proton beam therapy services for all eligible cancer patients, particularly those with pediatric cancers, brain tumors, and other complex malignancies.
- (b) To develop and implement standardized clinical protocols and quality assurance measures for proton beam therapy.
- (c) To conduct research and clinical trials on the efficacy and long-term outcomes of proton beam therapy in various types of cancer.
- (d) To serve as a training and education center for medical professionals, including radiation oncologists, medical physicists, radiation therapists, and other allied health professionals in the field of advanced radiation therapy.
- (e) To establish partnerships with local and international cancer centers and organizations to facilitate knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and collaborative research.
- (f) To implement a system for patient eligibility and referral to ensure equitable access to PBT services.

Section 6. Governance and Management. - The Center shall be governed by a Management Committee composed of representatives from the PCC, the Department of Health, and other relevant government agencies and non-

government organizations as deemed necessary. The Committee shall formulate policies and guidelines for the efficient and sustainable operation of the Center.

SECTION 7. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the initial capital outlay for the construction, equipment, and initial operations of the Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Subsequently, the funds for the maintenance and operation of the Center shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Health and the PCC.

Section 8. *PhilHealth Coverage.* - Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, PhilHealth shall develop and implement a benefit package for proton beam therapy, which shall cover the cost of treatment for specific cancer indications as determined by the Philippine Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) and the PhilHealth Board.

Section 9. *Human Resource Development.* - The PCC, in coordination with relevant professional organizations and academic institutions, shall develop a comprehensive plan for the recruitment, training, and retention of a specialized workforce required for the operation of the Center, including, but not limited to, radiation oncologists, medical physicists, and radiation therapists.

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

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, rules, and regulations, other issuances, or part thereof, inconsistent with any provision 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 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,