

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6156



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

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CYCLOTRON AND PET-CT SCAN FACILITY AT THE
PHILIPPINE CANCER CENTER FOR THE PRODUCTION OF
RADIOISOTOPES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cancer remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) listed cancer as the second leading cause of death in the country, accounting for more than 10 percent of total deaths.

While the enactment of Republic Act 11215, or the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (NICCA) strengthened the country’s framework for comprehensive cancer care, significant gaps in early diagnosis and advanced imaging services persist. Access to timely, accurate, and affordable cancer diagnostics remains limited, especially for PET-CT scans- an essential tool for cancer detection, staging, and treatment planning.

At present, PET-CT services in the country are concentrated in a few cities, mostly within Metro Manila, and rely heavily on imported radioisotopes for tracer production. The limited local supply, high cost, and logistical constraints pose significant barriers to patients who urgently need precise and reliable imaging. The absence of an in-country cyclotron facility dedicated to the Philippine Cancer Center further contributes to high service fees, delays in diagnosis, and missed opportunities to detect cancer at earlier, more treatable stages.

This bill seeks to address these critical gaps by establishing a Cyclotron and PET-CT Scan Facility at the Philippine Cancer Center, which will enable the local production of radioisotopes essential for nuclear medicine procedures. The availability of locally produced radiotracers, such as Flurodeoxyglucose (18F-FDG)- will significantly reduce costs, increase service reliability, and expand access for patients across the country.

The establishment of this facility is a crucial component of fulfilling the State's mandate under NICCA and the Universal Health Care Act to strengthen cancer control, expand access to essential health services, and reduce the financial burden on Filipino families. It also aligns with the broader national goal of enhancing the country's diagnostic and research capabilities in oncology.

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



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Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 “*Philippine Cancer Center Cyclotron and PET-CT 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. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which includes providing every Filipino, especially those with cancer, with access to quality, affordable, and timely diagnostic and therapeutic services.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

1. Cyclotron - refers to a type of particle accelerator that produces radioisotopes by accelerating charged particles in a spiral path using a high-frequency alternating voltage and a static magnetic field. This device is essential for the local production of radiopharmaceuticals used in medical imaging.
2. Radioisotopes - also known as radionuclides, are atoms with an unstable nucleus that emit radiation as they decay. In nuclear medicine, they are

tagged to a pharmaceutical to create a radiotracer, which is then used to diagnose diseases by providing images of the function and metabolism of organs and tissues.

3. Positron Emission Tomography – Computed Tomography (PET-CT) Scan - refers to a non-invasive medical imaging technique that combines two different types of scans: a PET scan, which visualizes metabolic activity using a radiotracer, and a CT scan, which provides detailed anatomical images. When combined, they offer a precise image of both the location and metabolic activity of cells, which is highly effective for cancer diagnosis, staging, and monitoring.
4. Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) Scan - refers to a nuclear medicine tomographic imaging technique using gamma rays. It is used to analyze the function of internal organs and is a different method of imaging from PET, though both rely on the use of radioisotopes.
5. Philippine Cancer Center (PCC) - refers to the lead institution for cancer control activities in the Philippines, as designated by the National Integrated Cancer Control Act (R.A. No. 11215). It serves as a specialized hospital for cancer patients and a center for cancer research and training.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the Facility. — The Philippine Cancer Center (PCC), under the Department of Health (DOH), is hereby authorized to acquire, install, operate, and maintain a medical cyclotron and a Positron Emission Tomography – Computed Tomography (PET-CT) scan facility. This facility shall be for the primary purpose of producing and distributing radioisotopes for medical imaging, particularly for the diagnosis, staging, and monitoring of cancer.

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

1. Radioisotope Production: Produce radioisotopes, including but not limited to Fluorine-18 Fluorodeoxyglucose (18F-FDG), for use in the PET-CT scan facility of the PCC and for distribution to other government and private hospitals with PET-CT and Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) scanning capabilities.
2. Diagnostic Services: Provide affordable and accessible PET-CT and SPECT diagnostic services to cancer patients, particularly those covered by the National Integrated Cancer Control Act and the Universal Health Care Act.

3. Research and Training: Serve as a national hub for research and development in nuclear medicine and a training ground for nuclear medicine physicians, medical physicists, radiopharmacists, and technologists.
4. Supply and Distribution: Establish a reliable and cost-effective system for the distribution of radioisotopes to authorized medical facilities nationwide.

SECTION 6. Appropriation. – The amount Eight Hundred Million Pesos (₱800,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the National Treasury to cover the acquisition, installation, and initial operational expenses of the cyclotron and PET-CT scan facility. This fund shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act for the fiscal year immediately following the approval of this Act.

Additionally, the amount of One Hundred Twenty Million Pesos (₱120,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated annually for the operational costs of the facility, including personnel, maintenance, and consumables, to be sourced from the DOH budget and included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Management and Administration. — The management and administration of the facility shall be vested in the Philippine Cancer Center, in coordination with the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) for regulatory compliance and safety oversight, and the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) for benefit and pricing guidelines. The PCC shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the facility's operation, including a mixed public-private utilization model to ensure sustainability.

SECTION 9. PhilHealth Coverage. — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is hereby mandated to include PET-CT scans and other related nuclear medicine procedures as a reimbursable benefit in its expanded cancer care packages, with reimbursement rates that ensure accessibility and sustainability.

SECTION 10. Reporting. — The PCC, through the DOH, shall submit an annual report to the House of Representatives and the Senate on the implementation of this Act, including the financial performance, number of patients served, cost reduction achieved, and the overall impact on cancer care in the Philippines.

SECTION 11. *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 12. *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 13. *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,