

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 12 P1:42

SENATE

S.B. 1209

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The establishment of breast care centers is a matter that must be addressed by the State, as mandated by the Constitution when it provides, that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

Breast care centers are available in some parts of the world, and for most of them, it is a means by which better education, care and preventive measures are given to women who avail of their services. By approving this Act, the access to specialized care is made easier, more accessible, and more affordable to the more marginalized sectors of our society, and would be more in tune with the provisions of the Constitution.

As the famous saying goes, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. With the proper implementation of this Act, the incidence of death caused by breast cancer will be lessened if not totally prevented, which will do justice to the authors of the Constitution which included a chapter on Health which is available to the people at an affordable cost. Henceforth, the passage of this legislation is earnestly sought.

  
MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN EVERY  
REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Establishment of Breast Care Centers.*** A breast care center, known in this Act as "Center", shall be established in every region of the country to spearhead the fight against breast cancer. It shall be a new department in existing regional hospitals of the National Government. Should there be no regional hospital in a region, the Center shall be attached to any district hospital in the region which is most accessible to the highest number of constituents.

**SEC. 2. *Equipment and Personnel.*** The Centers shall be provided with such equipment, tools, implements, devices, apparatus, and personnel as may be necessary for them to carry out multiple programs such as Breast Protection, Breast Surveillance, Breast Imaging, Breast Diagnostic and Surgery, Breast Cancer Chemotherapy, and Breast Cancer Awareness Information.

**SEC. 3. *Functions.*** The Centers shall, in coordination with local government units, local health offices, the Philippine Information Agency and other government agencies, shall spearhead a sustained and extensive information and awareness campaign within their respective region to raise the level of awareness of the region's constituents especially the women sector on the ill's, causes and symptoms of the disease for its early detection and prevention.

It shall coordinate with regional and local education officials to ensure that female high school students in both public and private schools are taught the pertinent information about the disease and are trained to habitually self-examine themselves as a part of the regular secondary curriculum.

**SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Secretary of the Department of Health shall issue such guidelines, orders, or rules and regulations as may be necessary for the establishment of a Center in every regional hospital of the national government to be designated by the Secretary of Health for being the most accessible to the highest number of constituents in a region where there is no existing regional hospital; for the acquisition of the necessary equipment, tools, implements, devices, and apparatus, the hiring of personnel and fix reasonable fees for the services of the Centers and to carry out provisions and purposes of this Act.

**SEC. 5. *Operationalization and Appropriations.*** To fully implement the provisions of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Centers, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General appropriations Act.

**SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,