

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

'22 JUL -7 P5:51

SENATE
S. No. 219

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CANCER MEDICINE AND TREATMENT
ASSISTANCE FUND FOR INDIGENT AND UNDERPRIVILEGED
FILIPINOS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

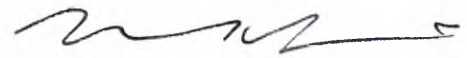
The 1987 Philippine Constitution expressly provides that:

"The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential foods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

Cancer is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines. The incidence and mortality rate of cancer in the Philippines has been increasing in the past decades. This trend is expected to continue if organized and sustained specialized care and preventive measures against cancer are not initiated.

Chemotherapy for cancer patients may have daunting costs per session. The cost of treatment by radiation or even examination by MRI, is burdensome even to middle-income patients, and often beyond the reach of the poor.

Considering that one of the goals of the national economy is a more equitable distribution of opportunities and raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged, it is high time that those who are less in life be given the lifeline to fight cancer disease despite their lack of resources.



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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Cancer
2 Medicine and Treatment Fund for Filipinos of 2022."

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby a policy of the state to
4 protect and promote the right to health of the people and to adopt and
5 implement a system of effecting the delivery of free medicine and free
6 treatment to indigent and underprivileged cancer patients.

7 SEC. 3. *Establishment of a Php 10 Billion Cancer Fund and Free*
8 *Medicine Assistance Program.* – There is hereby created a Ten Billion Peso
9 Cancer Fund that can be availed by indigent and underprivileged cancer
10 patients. For this purpose, a Cancer Treatment Program, hereinafter referred
11 to as the "Program," is established and to be administered by the Philippine
12 Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) through its accredited government
13 hospitals in each particular congressional district, to be known as the health
14 district.

1 The program shall be limited to indigent and underprivileged cancer
2 patient beneficiaries to be identified by PhilHealth, in close coordination with
3 the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department
4 of Health (DOH), and the Department of Interior and Local Government
5 (DILG).

6 SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PhilHealth, jointly
7 with the DSWD, DOH and DILG, and the relevant private groups, including the
8 association of hospitals and medical institutions and groups of patients, shall
9 prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the
10 provision of this Act within six (6) months from the effectivity hereof.

11 SEC 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the initial
12 implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current year’s
13 appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for
14 its continued implementation shall. Be included in the annual General
15 Appropriations Act.

16 SEC 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act
17 is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not
18 affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

19 SEC 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
20 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with
21 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

22 SEC 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
23 following its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,