

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -1 P5:10

**SENATE**

S. No. 242

RECEIVED BY: *Jo*

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 15 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that prostate cancer is the sixth most common form of malign tumors among men, with one casualty almost every 19 minutes. It is one of the top five cancers among men in the Philippines. According to the Philippine Cancer Control Program of the Department of Health (DOH), four new cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed each day. Unfortunately, not too many Filipinos know they are suffering from the disease – until it becomes too late for treatment.

Medical studies have shown that only one in ten men showing symptoms will actually be diagnosed with cancer. For the rest, the cause of symptoms is usually a non-cancerous enlargement known as benign prostatic hypertrophy (BHP). Benign enlargement of the prostate gland tends to occur at the same age as prostate cancer, but there is no evidence that one leads to the other.

Like most cancers, prostate cancer can be cured if detected early. For this reason, doctors emphasize early screening. Most prostate cancers begin in the part of the prostate gland that can be reached by a rectal exam. Thus, a digital rectal examination (DRE) is recommended as a means to detect rectal tumors early.

Despite the availability of early detection screening methods in the Philippines, few Filipino males undergo them. As such, there is a need to provide information, education and communication (IEC) campaign to educate the general public on the benefits of availing these early detection screening procedures for prostate cancer.

By passing this landmark piece of legislation, our government promotes health awareness, particularly with regard to the early detection and treatment of prostate cancer.

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

  
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Senator



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**AN ACT**

**INSTITUTING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL SCREENING PROGRAM TO COMBAT PROSTATE CANCER, IMPLEMENTING A NATIONWIDE INFORMATION, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION (IEC) CAMPAIGN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1        **SECTION 1.     *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "***Comprehensive***  
2 ***Prostate Cancer Early Detection and Prevention Act***".

3  
4        **SEC. 2.     *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
5 to protect and promote the right to health of the people, including the right of persons  
6 with prostate cancer to full, healthy, and holistic development.

7        As such, the State shall promote an environment conducive to the development  
8 of persons with prostate cancer to become independent, self-reliant and productive  
9 members of society.

10        Towards this end, the State commits itself to the establishment of institutional  
11 and social mechanisms to support persons with prostate cancer. The State shall  
12 institutionalize a holistic program for persons with prostate cancer for purposes of  
13 empowering and providing them quality of life.

14  
15        **SEC. 3.     *Epidemiological Surveillance Programs.*** - The National Institute  
16 of Health (NIH) of the Department of Health (DOH) is hereby mandated to conduct an  
17 annual epidemiological survey program to determine the extent and total incidence and  
18 prevalence of persons with prostate cancer in the country in order for the government to  
19 provide the necessary health interventions to address the needs faced by persons with  
20 prostate cancer.

1 The NIH is mandated to coordinate with the Department of Health (DOH) in the  
2 conduct of epidemiological research on the issues concerning prostate cancer in the  
3 country. The NIH shall carry out a program to expand and intensify research to develop  
4 innovative advanced imaging technologies for prostate cancer detection, diagnosis, and  
5 treatment comparable to state-of-the-art mammography technologies.

6 The NIH is mandated to strengthen its research focus concerning prostate cancer,  
7 including a renewed investment into clinical research and expanded research into the  
8 link between environmental factors with prostate cancer, and continued investigations  
9 into causation, diagnosis, early detection, and treatment of prostate cancer.

10  
11 **SEC. 4. National Program for Prostate Cancer Awareness, Education,**  
12 **Screening, Prevention and Rehabilitation.** – The DOH is hereby mandated to  
13 implement a comprehensive and nationwide program on prostate cancer screening,  
14 prevention and rehabilitation.

15 Towards this end, the DOH is hereby mandated to implement the following  
16 objectives:

17 a) to promote public awareness, education and information on issues  
18 concerning the disease;

19 b) to establish sustainable networks of support group for families of persons  
20 with the disease;

21 c) to provide referral services to patients and identify appropriate educational  
22 and medical expertise and facilities suited to the needs of the patients;

23 d) to combat the spectrum of disorders related to the disease through  
24 screening, education, early intervention, prompt referrals for treatment and services;

25 e) to undertake research and/or collaborate with other entities on research  
26 activities regarding the prostate cancer;

27 f) to receive donations and grants from local and international donor  
28 institutions, foundations, and multilateral and bilateral foreign donor agencies involved in  
29 the prevention, cure and rehabilitation of persons with prostate cancer;

30 g) to provide the avenue for exchange of information, exchange programs  
31 and sharing of best practices on issues relating to the early detection, prevention, cure,  
32 treatment and rehabilitation of persons with prostate cancer; and

33 h) to network with other organizations, institutions and professionals working  
34 for the promotion of legislation and public programs for afflicted persons.

35 The DOH shall carry out a program on prostate cancer which shall educate and  
36 inform males who are forty (40) years of age or older on the need to periodically  
37 undergo physical examination for such cancer, including education on the frequency  
38 and type of such examinations that are that are appropriate for various age groups of

1 such men and to educate males on the availability and appropriateness of procedures  
2 for detecting the cancer in its early stages, including the procedure known as prostate  
3 ultrasound.

4 The national campaign shall include the development and distribution of written  
5 educational materials, and the development and placing of public service  
6 announcements that are intended to encourage men to seek prostate cancer screening  
7 and to create awareness on the need for improved imaging technologies for prostate  
8 cancer detection and minimally invasive treatment.

9 The DOH shall carry out research to develop an improved prostate cancer  
10 screening blood test using in-vitro detection.

11 In developing the national campaign under this Act, the DOH shall recognize and  
12 address racial, cultural and ethnic disparities in the incidences of prostate cancer and  
13 mortality rates with respect to such disease.

14

15 **SEC. 5. Programs and Services for Prostate Cancer Disease**

16 **Prevention.** - The programs and services that will be provided by the Department of  
17 Health (DOH) shall include, among others, the following:

18 a) Orientation and Counseling Services for families of newly diagnosed  
19 persons;

20 b) Establishment of Family Support Networks and Sibling Program for  
21 families of afflicted persons to seek psycho-social support for the various problems  
22 faced by the patients;

23 c) Establishment of National and Regional Referral Services where the DOH  
24 will update a list of health care institutions concerned with the care and rehabilitation of  
25 patients with prostate cancer;

26 d) Publication of reading materials, manuals and easily readable instruction  
27 materials for the disease's early detection, prevention, rehabilitation and care;

28 e) The conduct of continuing education, information and training programs  
29 and lectures on the proper handling of afflicted persons;

30 f) The establishment of a databank and information and monitoring system  
31 (IMS) on the demographic, socio-economic and incidence and prevalence of afflicted  
32 persons in the country; and

33 g) The conduct of continuing education/training of families, teachers,  
34 therapists and caregivers of persons with prostate cancer through seminars,  
35 conventions and other forms of tri-media educational tools.

1           **SEC. 6.     *Early Identification and Intervention for Persons with Prostate***  
2 ***Cancer.*** – The DOH is hereby mandated to establish a program for early identification,  
3 screening, and detection of persons with prostate cancer.

4           **SEC. 7.     *Technical Assistance and Grants.*** - The DOH shall establish a  
5 program to award grants to non-profit private entities and private health providers to  
6 enable such entities to test alternative outreach and education strategies to increase  
7 awareness and knowledge with respect to the need for prostate cancer screening and  
8 improved imaging technologies.

9           **SEC. 8.     *Prostate Cancer Early Detection and Screening Fees.*** – The  
10 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall include the cost of early detection  
11 and screening programs for prostate cancer as one of the available benefits to its  
12 members.

13           The early detection and screening test fees shall be applied to, among others,  
14 testing costs, education, follow-up and readable overhead expenses. These early  
15 detection and screening are designed to identify persons who should receive more  
16 intensive diagnosis or assessment in order to improve the health and well-being of the  
17 patient.

18  
19           **SEC. 9.     *National Awareness Week for Prostate Cancer Prevention.*** - In  
20 order to mainstream the issues and concerns of patients with prostate cancer, the first  
21 week of June of every year is hereby declared as the “***Prostate Cancer Awareness***  
22 ***Week***”. This week shall be celebrated nationwide so that stakeholders all over the  
23 nation can increase public awareness on the prevalence and incidence of prostate  
24 cancer in the country. The week-long activity will be spearheaded by the Department of  
25 Health (DOH).

26  
27           **SEC. 10.    *Confidentiality of Medical Information for Persons with***  
28 ***Prostate Cancer.*** - To ensure the confidentiality of medical records and to protect any  
29 unwarranted intrusion into the privacy of patients in the early detection, screening tests,  
30 vaccination, medical treatment, and rehabilitation of persons with prostate cancer, the  
31 Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ), shall  
32 formulate pertinent implementing rules and regulations.

33  
34           **SEC. 11.    *Reporting Requirement.*** – Within two (2) years from the date of  
35 effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall make a report to both Houses of Congress on the  
36 results of the studies conducted by the Department for policy implication, *in aid of*  
37 *legislation*, in order to address the increasing incidence and prevalence of prostate

1 cancer in the country.

2

3       **SEC. 12.    *Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions  
4 of this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the  
5 Department of Health (DOH) and the National Institute of Health (NIH).

6

7       **SEC. 13.    *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** - Within six (6)  
8 months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with the DWSD  
9 and DOJ shall promulgate necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement  
10 the provisions of this Act.

11

12       **SEC. 14.    *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
13 regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
14 repealed or modified accordingly.

15

16       **SEC. 15.    *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act, or the  
17 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid,  
18 other provisions hereof which are not affected hereby shall continue to be in full force  
19 and effect.

20

21       **SEC. 16.    *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
22 from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of  
23 general circulation.

***Approved,***