

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -3 P12 50

SENATE

S.B. No. 354

BY: 

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill mandates the local government units (LGUs) to conduct a quarterly breast cancer detection program for the early prevention and cure of the disease among Filipino women all over the country.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the country among Filipino women. The Philippines is among the countries with the highest number of reported breast cancer incidence in Asia.

Early detection increases the cure and recovery rates. Breast self-examination (BSE) and mammography are some of the procedures that an individual can undergo. Mammography is not readily available and too expensive for most Filipino women, especially the ones residing in rural areas. Economic factors and fear are the two leading reasons why Filipino women with cancer are diagnosed at an advanced stage. Clearly then, there is a need to increase the awareness and assistance in preventing, diagnosing and treating breast cancer among Filipino women.

This measure directs local government units to hold quarterly manual or mammogram breast cancer screening programs through their respective health officers under the supervision of the Department of Health. The LGUs shall coordinate and seek the support of other health-related sectors and non-government organizations (NGOs) in establishing and maintaining anti-breast cancer programs. To ensure proper dissemination, promotional and advocacy programs will utilize existing forms of media communications such as public service announcements in radio and television and information pamphlets.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

'13 JUL -3 P12:50

S E N A T E

S.B. No. 354

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CONDUCT A
QUARTERLY BREAST CANCER DETECTION PROGRAM

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**Breast Cancer Detection Act of 2013.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State that health is a basic human right that must be enjoyed by all its citizens and that the government shall endeavor to prevent and control diseases among population at risk; and treats, manages and rehabilitates individuals affected by disease and disability.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) *Breast Cancer Detection, Breast Screening Program* - the breast examination program
- b) *Infiltrating/invasive ductal carcinoma* - malignant cancerous growth
- c) *Local Government Units* - the municipal, city or provincial government units of the Philippines
- d) *Breast Surgery* - the removal of breast/s
- e) *Radiotherapy* - the application of x-ray in destroying cancer cells in the body
- f) *Chemotherapy* - the administration of medicines to destroy cancer cells

SEC. 4. *Screening Program.* - The Local Government Units are hereby directed, through its local health officers and in close coordination with the Department of Health, to hold a quarterly manual or mammogram breast cancer-screening program.

The Program will utilize the services of the Barangay/Municipal/City/Provincial Health Workers in identifying breast cancer cases and positive cases will be immediately referred to public health hospitals for treatment, management and rehabilitation. The Health Workers concerned shall then maintain a case record on each individual found positive of breast cancer.

SEC. 5. *Linkages and Support from Other Sectors.* - Appropriate linkages, coordination and support with health-related sectors and non-government organizations with anti-breast cancer programs shall be established and maintained.

SEC. 6. *Advocacy.* - Promotional and advocacy activities of the Program will make use of the existing forms of media communications such as public service announcements in radio and television, public fora and the generation of pamphlets for dissemination to target clientele. Commitments from partner agencies in the form of cost-sharing arrangements will be enjoined to ensure success of the Program.

SEC. 7. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* - The LGUs in coordination with the Department of Health and partner agencies should constantly assess the Program by way of periodic/spot reporting and inter-LGU field visits for submission to the Department of Health.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* - Should any part or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not otherwise affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees and other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,