

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

19 NOV -4 P 2:23

SENATE

S. No. 1133

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
CREATING ONE REGIONAL HEART CENTER IN EACH OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The World Health Organization (WHO) tags cardiovascular diseases as the number one cause of deaths in the world. The annual global death toll from such diseases reaches around 17.5 million, which is equivalent to three for every ten deaths reported.¹

The Department of Health (DOH) in one of its studies revealed that around 170,000 die of cardiovascular diseases every year translating to 19 deaths every hour.² Data from the Philippine Heart Center also show that 47.5% per 100,000 population die because of heart attack while 25% die of hypertension and other forms of heart diseases.³ Cardiovascular diseases are also number five in the list of deadly diseases affecting the Filipino children.⁴

The vulnerability of the human heart requires a specialized cardiac care that is performed only by professional and trained heart specialists, in a facility that is equipped with state-of-the-art cardiac equipment and with the necessary medical

¹ <http://www.altheadistributor.com/philippines-heart-stroke-cancer/>.

² <http://www.pchrd.dost.gov.ph/index.php/news/library-health-news/4123-cardiovascular-disease-is-still-the-country-s-top-killer-read-more-http-lifestyle-inquirer-net-178609-cardiovascular-disease-is-still-the-countrys-top-killer-ixzz3khgjk4zu-follow-us-inquirerdotnet-on-twitter-inquirerdotnet-on-facebook>.

³ <http://www.phc.gov.ph/igg/index.php?p=commitment&s=pathway>.

⁴ *Ibid.*

supplies. This specialized cardiac care more often than not, is costly and not accessible to many Filipinos living outside of the greater Metro Manila. For instance, the Philippine Heart Center, which is the country's specialty hospital for heart diseases, reported around 15,000 admissions every year. However, 55% of the admitted patients came from the greater Metro Manila area while the 45% were from the rest of the country.

The above data would indicate that Filipinos living near the metropolis have the greater advantage in accessing specialized care from the Philippine Heart Center. Meanwhile, patients coming from the rural provinces were to some extent, deprived of the same quality of cardiac care that the specialty hospital provides or spend a fortune to travel to Manila for treatment of complex cardiovascular cases.

It is in this regard that this bill aims to create one Regional Heart Center in each of the administrative regions in the country. Hence, the government ensures that equal access and privilege to avail of specialized and quality cardiac care is extended to a larger population of Filipinos. The Regional Heart Centers shall be administered by the DOH and may be created within the existing DOH Regional Hospitals and Medical Centers. The Centers shall be equipped with essential cardiac care equipment and necessary medical supplies and shall tap the services of professional heart specialists and other professionals who shall render services at a subsidized cost.

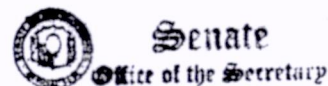
The creation of these Regional Heart Centers will also unburden the Philippine Heart Center located in the National Capital Region. It would also allow patients from the provinces especially those who do not have adequate resources to avail of immediate and more affordable cardiac care without the need to travel long distance. Thus, lowering the deaths associated with heart diseases in the long run.

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



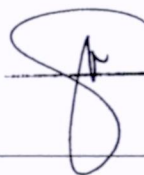
RALPH G. RECTO

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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 “Regional Heart
2 Centers Act”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as the policy of the State
4 to secure the well-being of its people by providing them with specialized health
5 services and to address the increasing incidences of deadly diseases like
6 cardiovascular illness in the country. It is also the policy of the state to ensure that
7 every region in the country shall have the equal opportunity to benefit from public
8 specialty healthcare services. Towards this end, the State shall create regional heart
9 centers throughout the country.

10 Sec. 3. *Regional Heart Centers.* – There is hereby created one (1) Regional
11 Heart Center in each of the administrative regions in the country. The Regional
12 Heart Centers shall provide specialized cardiac care services for Filipinos suffering
13 from cardiovascular diseases with special consideration for the marginalized
14 members of the society: *Provided,* That the Regional Heart Centers shall pursue
15 excellence in developing and establishing the highest level of cardiovascular-related
16 training and research for physician and paramedical personnel: *Provided, further,*
17 That the operation and maintenance of the Regional Heart Centers shall be under
18 the Department of Health (DOH): *Provided, even further,* That the Regional Heart
19 Centers may be created within the existing DOH Regional Hospitals and Medical

1 Centers as deemed feasible by the DOH: *Provided, finally,* That the Regional Heart
2 Centers shall provide comparable quality of cardiac care as that of the Philippine
3 Heart Center.

4 Sec. 4. *Appropriations.* – The fund requirement necessary for the
5 implementation of this Act and the initial operation and maintenance of the Regional
6 Heart Centers shall be charged against the Contingent Fund. Thereafter, such sums
7 as may be necessary shall be included in the subsequent annual General
8 Appropriations Act under the budget of the DOH.

9 Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety days (90) after
10 the effectivity of this Act, the DOH and the Department of Budget and Management
11 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of
12 this Act.

13 Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days following
14 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official*
15 *Gazette.*

Approved,

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