

14<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Republic )  
of the Philippines )  
1st Regular Session )

SENATE  
SB 1439

SECRETARY  
RECEIVED

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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Data from the Department of Health indicate that breast cancer is the third most common cancer worldwide and is the most common among women. In the Philippines, it ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> among the common cancers on both sexes and ranks first among Filipino women. Reports even have it that breast cancer is highest in the Philippines compared to other Southeast Asian countries.

As in all types of cancer, the cause of breast cancer is multi-factorial and the possibility of cure is high when detected early. Hence, public awareness and education is vital in the fight against breast cancer. Information is our primary weapon and it is on this that we must focus our efforts.

This bill seeks to establish breast care centers in every region nationwide to spearhead a sustained information campaign to raise the public's level of awareness on breast cancer, take the lead in providing affordable services in the fight and cure of the disease, and coordinate with the Department of Education to ensure that the ill's, causes and symptoms of the disease are regularly discussed as part of the high school curriculum.



AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.

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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 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 of 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.

SECTION 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 and Information.

SECTION 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 ills, causes and symptoms of breast cancer 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 breast cancer and are trained to habitually examine themselves as a part of the regular secondary curriculum.

SECTION 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 or in a district hospital 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 the provisions and purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Operationalization and Appropriations.* To fully implement the provisions of this Act, the Secretary of the Department 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.

SECTION 6. All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,