

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

10 JUL 13 11 30

S E N A T E
S.B. No. 1399

RECEIVED

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.

Cancer is the third leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the country. One research stated that one in 1,800 Filipinos will develop cancer annually. For every two new cases of cancer diagnoses every year, one will pass away within the year. The Philippines has the highest number of reported breast cancer incidence in Asia with an age standardized incidence rate (ASR) of 47.7 per 100,000 Filipino women. This number is higher than the numbers of some European countries like Spain and Italy.

Early detection increases the cure and recovery rates. Breast self-examination (BSE) and mammography are some of the procedures that an individual can undergo. Unfortunately, only 54 percent of Filipino women perform BSE and out of that number, only 27 percent continue to do it regularly. 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

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.

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "**Breast Cancer Detection**
2 **Act of 2010.**"

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

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

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

22
23 **SEC. 4. Screening Program.** - The Local Government Units are hereby
24 directed, through its local health officers and in close coordination with the

1 Department of Health, to hold a quarterly manual or mammogram breast cancer-
2 screening program.

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

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

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

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

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26 **SEC. 8. *Allocation of Funds.*** - The amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos
27 (P100,000.00) for Provincial Government, Seventy-Five Thousand Pesos (P75,000.00)
28 for the City Government and Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) shall be earmarked
29 annually from the respective Internal Revenue Allotment of these local government
30 units concerned for the implementation of this Program.

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32 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** - Should any part or provision of this Act be
33 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not otherwise
34 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees and other
2 executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with
3 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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5 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its
6 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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8 Approved,