

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3497**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
DATE:	06 SEP 2016
TIME:	2:50PM
BY:	NSM
REGISTRATION UNIT	
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Representative ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in the country and is the primary cause of death among Filipino women¹. With one out of every 13 Filipinas expected to develop breast cancer in her lifetime, the Philippines ranks first in breast cancer incidences in Asia.²

It is important to note, however, that breast cancer is preventable and curable. Through early screening and detection, coupled with proper treatment, the physical, emotional, and economic consequences of being afflicted by breast cancer can be prevented. Thus, it is important for the State to exert all efforts to increase awareness and assist in preventing, diagnosing, and treating breast cancer among Filipino women.

This bill directs all local government units to hold quarterly breast cancer screening programs through their health officers under the supervision of the Department of Health. Furthermore, the LGUs are expected to establish and maintain partnerships with non-government organizations and other health-related sectors to ensure the effectiveness and success of the program in their area.

Through this initiative, not only do we give women with cancer a better chance of remission and survival but we also spare their families from the physical and emotional stress and financial burden that cancer brings to the family.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

¹ Philip C. Tubeza. *Breast cancer is the most prevalent in PH*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Available at: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/291078/breast-cancer-is-the-most-prevalent-in-ph> [21 October 2015]

² Inquirer.net. *PH highest breast cancer incidence rate in Asia, health experts say*. Available at: <http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/128663/ph-highest-breast-cancer-incidence-rate-in-asia-health-experts-say> [21 October 2015]

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3497

Introduced by Representative ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY BREAST
CANCER DETECTION PROGRAMS

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**Breast Cancer Detection Act of 2016**".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Furthermore, the State recognizes the need to raise awareness among Filipinos about the dangers of breast cancer and possible prevention of this illness.

SECTION 3. Breast Cancer Screening Program. The Local Government Units are hereby directed, through their 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. Those who are positively identified 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.

SECTION 4. 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.

SECTION 5. 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 the success of the Program.

SECTION 6. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* The LGUs in coordination with the Department of Health and partner agencies shall constantly assess the Program by way of period/spot reporting and inter-LGU field visits for submission to the Department of Health.

SECTION 7. *Funds.* The amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) for Provincial Government, Seventy-Five Thousand Pesos (P75,000.00) for the City Government and Fifty Thousand (P50,000.00) for Municipal Government shall be earmarked annually from the respective Internal Revenue Allotment of these local government units concerned for the implementation of this Program.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*— If for any reason or provision of this Act, or any portion thereof, or the application of such section, provision or portion thereof to any person, group or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration and shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,