

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3503

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Congressman ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE


Glaucoma is a medical term for a group of eye diseases that affects the optic nerve of the eye - the cable that connects the eye to the brain. Progressive damage to the optic nerve will lead to visual field constriction and eventually blindness.

Statistics show that an estimated 2.4 million Filipinos suffer from glaucoma, making it the third leading cause of blindness in the country. Unfortunately, blindness due to glaucoma is irreversible.

This bill seeks to establish a grant program to provide screenings for glaucoma to individuals determined to be at high risk for glaucoma.

As of today, while glaucoma is a disease that cannot be cured, it can be controlled. Thus, state intervention is of utmost importance to provide glaucoma patients with adequate access to treatment and prevention from worsening.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 3503

Introduced by Congressman ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SCREENINGS FOR GLAUCOMA TO
INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED TO BE AT HIGH RISK FOR GLAUCOMA

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Glaucoma Screening Act.”

SECTION 2. Grant Program to Provide Screenings for Glaucoma to High Risk Individuals. –

a. Grant Program. – The Secretary of the Department of Health (here called the “Secretary”) shall establish a program to award a grant to an eligible entity that will provide screenings for glaucoma for individuals determined by the Secretary to be at high risk for glaucoma.

For Purpose of this Act, “Individuals determined to be at high risk for glaucoma” means those individuals determined by the Secretary to be at high risk for glaucoma without regard to the age of the individual.

b. Eligibility. – In order to be eligible to receive a grant, an entity shall (1) submit an applicant at such time, in such form, and with such information and assurances as the Secretary may require; and (2) be dedicated solely to screening individuals for glaucoma and other eye diseases.

c. Use of Funds. – An entity receiving a grant shall use the grant in accordance with the following requirements:

1. The entity shall utilize mobile screening units to test for glaucoma and other eye diseases.

2. The entity shall target screening activities to population primarily consisting of individuals determined to be at high risk for glaucoma.
3. The entity shall form partnerships with government health centers to increase awareness of the need for screenings for glaucoma and to provide screenings for glaucoma for individuals determined to be at high risk for glaucoma, individuals with a family history of glaucoma, and individuals with diabetes.
4. The entity shall provide grants to approved medical residency training programs to permit students participating in the programs to conduct screenings for glaucoma for individuals determined to be at high risk for glaucoma.

SECTION 3. Authorization of Appropriations. - To carry out the provisions of this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. - Any laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations or parts hereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,