

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6042



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**INTRODUCED BY  
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

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


**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Blindness caused by glaucoma is irreversible. Glaucoma is the third leading cause of blindness in the Philippines with an estimated 2.4 million Filipinos suffer from the illness that directly affects the optic nerve, and it has stolen the vision of over 73 million individuals worldwide.

There is no known cure for glaucoma yet. Diagnosis remains to be the first step to preserve vision and prevent blindness caused by glaucoma. This Bill seeks to establish a grant program to provide screenings for individuals who are determined to be at high risk for visual impairments.

Thus, state intervention is deemed important to provide glaucoma patients and potential victims with adequate access to screening and treatment.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this Bill is sought.

  
**ALFRED VARGAS**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Glaucoma Screening Act.

**SECTION 2. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act, the following terms shall be construed to mean as follows:

- a. "Secretary" means the Department of Health Secretary
- b. "Individuals" means those Individuals determined by the Secretary to be at high risk for glaucoma without regard to the age of the individual

**SECTION 3. Grant Program to Provide Screenings for Glaucoma to High Risk Individuals.**

a. *Grant Program.* - The Secretary of the Department of Health (herein 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.

b. *Eligibility.* - In order to be eligible to receive a grant, an entity shall (1) submit an applicant at such time, 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 4. 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 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Secretary of the Department of Health shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this act, issue such rules and regulations necessary for the proper implementation of the provisions of this law.

**SECTION 6. Repealing Clause.** - Any laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations or parts hereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 7. 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 8. 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,*