

Fifteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5173

Introduced by Honorable Rosenda Ann Ocampo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the National Geriatric Hospital which will provide a full range of health care services, including primary care, wellness services, and behavioral health care to the elderly population of the country.

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides, in part, that *"The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children."*

Consistent with this constitutional provision, this bill aims to establish the National Geriatric Hospital, a specialized hospital which will cater to the elderly or senior citizens of the country. It will be the first of its kind in the country, and its establishment long overdue with the continuing increase in our country's population of people aged sixty and above. The National Geriatric Hospital will ensure the availability and accessibility of medical services for the elderly. Also, the facility will enable our elderly population who are most vulnerable to diseases to avail of much needed specialized health care. As a tribute to our country's elderly citizens, having served and contributed to the society in the prime of their life, it is only fitting to establish a hospital which primarily provides geriatric health services.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROSENDA ANN OCAMPO

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL GERIATRIC HOSPITAL,
DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the elderly by ensuring that health services are available and accessible to them through the establishment of a specialized hospital that will cater to their medical needs.

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- a) *Senior citizen or elderly* refers to any Filipino citizen who is at least sixty (60) years old;
- b) *Geriatrics* refers to the branch of medical science devoted to the study of the biological and physical changes and the diseases of old age;

c) *Geriatric health services* refer to the medical services or intervention provided by a geriatrician;

d) *Geriatrician* refers to a medical doctor who has passed the necessary training and examination, and specializes in the field of geriatrics;

e) *Integrated delivery of geriatric health services* refer to hospital and community-based medical and psycho-social services provided to senior citizens by a multi-disciplinary team.

SEC. 3. *National Geriatric Hospital.* – The National Geriatric Hospital (NGH), a government-owned and controlled corporation, is hereby established for the primary benefit of senior citizens or the elderly. The NGH shall be located in San Miguel, Manila and shall have a bed capacity of at least fifty (50).

SEC. 4. *Purposes and Objectives.* – The NGH shall have the following purposes and objectives:

a) Equip, maintain, administer and operate an integrated medical institution which shall specialize in geriatric health services;

b) Promote medical and scientific research relative to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and relief of disease of the elderly;

c) Finance, sponsor, hold or participate in congresses, conventions, conferences, seminars, work-shops and training programs on geriatric health services or related fields in the Philippines or abroad;

d) Encourage and assist in the education and training of physicians, nurses, health officers, social workers and other medical and technical personnel in the practical and scientific implementation of health services to the elderly; and

e) Coordinate the various efforts and activities of other government agencies and local government units for the purpose of achieving a more effective approach to the delivery of geriatric health services.

SEC. 5. *Scope of Services.* – Consistent with its purposes and objectives, the NGH shall provide the following services:

a) Hospital-based services to ensure the availability of medical facilities and equipment necessary to provide long term and palliative services with its wards divided into the following: dementia, long term care, palliative care, respite care, and other units as may be deemed necessary;

b) Community-based services to develop and implement community-based program in partnership with local government units, conduct research and external resource outsourcing to implement community-based integrated geriatric health services, and conduct training necessary for the social functioning of senior citizens and their families, utilizing the multi-disciplinary team approaches;

c) Education programs to pursue excellence and the highest level of practice in the specialized field of geriatrics and other related fields, conduct

post-graduate training and short-term courses for medical doctors and allied medical professionals;

d) Program development and research to develop cutting edge research and programs to combat diseases of old age and to improve health care service for the elderly.

SEC. 6. *Board of Trustees.* – The NGH shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of the following:

- a) Secretary of Health, as chairperson;
- b) Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, as vice-chairperson;
- c) Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography;
- d) Chairperson of House Committee on Health;
- e) Three representatives from the Federation of Senior Citizens Association of the Philippines;
- f) President of the Philippine College of Geriatric Medicine;
- g) Three representatives from the Philippine Medical Association with expertise in the field of Geriatrics or Gerontology;
- h) Two representatives from the academe with expertise in the field of Geriatrics or Gerontology; and

i) Two representatives from non-government organizations which may be regional or national in scope, mainly providing services for senior citizens, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), or any appropriate government regulatory body, and with programs accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), as members.

The appointive Members of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines and shall serve for a term of three years.

All members shall serve without compensation other than actual and necessary expenses, in accordance with the existing laws, policies, and rules and regulations on the matter, incurred either for attendance in meetings of the Board or upon official business authorized by a resolution of the Board.

SEC. 7. Powers and Functions. — The Board shall have the following powers and functions in addition to their general powers of administration:

a) Formulate and adopt the by-laws, rules and regulations, policies, guidelines and procedures consistent with law and the provisions of this Act to govern the administration and operations of the NGH;

b) Formulate and develop programs for the enhancement of health care services for the elderly, including the training of NGH personnel and resident doctors;

c) Enter into such agreements and arrangements with other medical institutions, domestic or foreign, as may be necessary in attaining the purposes and objectives of the NGH;

d) Receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations or real and personal property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the NGH, in accordance with the directions and instructions of the donor, and in default thereof, in such manner as the Board of Trustees may, in its discretion, determine;

e) Receive and appropriate to the ends specified by law such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the NGH; and

f) Perform all such other acts and things as are or may be necessary for or incidental to the accomplishment of the objectives of the NGH.

SEC. 8. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – The Board shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the NGH subject to the evaluation by the Civil Service Commission and of the Organization Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management. The Board may reorganize said structure, modify the staffing pattern and create or abolish divisions, sections or units in the NGH.

SEC. 9. *Appointment by the Board.* – The Board shall have the authority to appoint, promote, transfer, remove, suspend or otherwise

discipline the officers and employees of the NGH upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, subject to Civil Service laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. *Executive Director.* – The NGH shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

The Executive Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a) Execute the policies, guidelines and programs approved by the Board, and be responsible for the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;
- b) Submit for the consideration and approval of the Board proposed measures, policies, guidelines and programs as may be deemed necessary or proper for the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;
- c) Direct and supervise the management, operation and administration of the NGH, and may delegate this power and any or some of his administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the NGH;
- d) Execute, on behalf of the Board, all contracts and agreements which the latter may enter into, and to execute, accomplish and deliver any and all documents relative to such contracts and agreements;

e) Represent the NGH in all dealings with other offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the government, and all other persons or entities, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private;

f) Recommend to the Board the appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal, and suspension of the officers and employees of the NGH; and

g) Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed by the Board.

SEC. 11. *Program for Indigents.* – The Board shall ensure that the NGH shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents. The number of beds allocated for indigent patients shall not be less than forty percent (40%) of the total number of hospital beds.

SEC. 12. *Tax Exemptions and Other Privileges.* – The provision of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding, all donations, grants contributions, gifts or endowments received by the NGH pursuant hereto, shall be exempt from income, gift and all other kinds of taxes, and shall be further considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

The NGH is hereby declared exempt from all income and all other internal revenue taxes, tariff and customs duties and all other kinds of taxes, fees, charges and assessments levied by the government and its political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities.

The NGH may request and receive assistance from the different agencies, bureaus, offices or instrumentalities of the government, including the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation in pursuit of its purposes and objectives.

SEC. 13. *Annual Report.* – The NGH shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the House Committee on Health, on its activities, accomplishments and recommendations to better improve the delivery of geriatric health services.

SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Health, in coordination with the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development and the Secretary of Budget and Management, shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 15. *Appropriations.* – The amount of Two hundred fifty million pesos (P250,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial operation and maintenance of the NGH. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation of the NGH shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,