

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.B. NO. 2834

Introduced by HON. EUFRANIO "FRANNY" C. ERIGUEL, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the National Center for Geriatric Health which will provide a full range of health care services, including primary care, wellness services, and behavioral health care to the senior citizens and older members of our population.

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 endeavour 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.*"

The State is mandated to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino by making quality and adequate health care available and accessible to everyone, especially to the underprivileged senior citizens and older persons.

Consistent with this mandate, the National Center for Geriatric Health will focus on the medical needs of senior citizens and older persons, and shall be the first of its kind in the Philippines. This will ensure the social, psychological and biological aspects of aging members of the population, as well as improve research and studies on the diseases of older persons. The facility will enable senior citizens and older persons who are most vulnerable to diseases to avail of much needed specialized health care.

This bill likewise encourages the active involvement of the private sector, and other members of the public sector, to help in the fulfilment of this mission. As a tribute to our country's senior citizens and older persons having served and contributed to the society in the prime of their lives, it is only fitting to establish a Center which will primarily provide geriatric health services.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Franny C. Eriguel', written over the printed name.

HON. EUFRANIO "FRANNY" C. ERIGUEL, M.D.
2nd Dist., La union

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.B. NO. 2834

Introduced by HON. EUFRANIO "FRANNY" C. ERIGUEL, M.D.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR GERIATRIC HEALTH, 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:*

SEC. 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as "An Act Establishing the National Center for Geriatric Health."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of older persons by ensuring that health services are available and accessible to them through the establishment of a specialized hospital that will cater to their medical need

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this act

- (a) *Senior Citizens* or *Older Persons* shall refer to Filipino citizens who are at least sixty (60) years old;
- (b) *Geriatrics* refers to the sub-specialty of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine that aims to promote health and prevent and treat disabilities of older adults;

- (c) *Geriatric health services* shall refer to the medical services or intervention provided by a multi-disciplinary team usually headed by a Geriatrician;
- (d) *Geriatrician* shall refer to a medical doctor who has passed the necessary training and examination, and specializes in the field of geriatrics;
- (e) *Gerontology* shall refer to the study of the biological, psychological, spiritual, social, economic, demographic aspects of the aging process;
- (f) *Integrated delivery of geriatric health services* shall refer to hospital and community-based medical and psycho-social services provided to senior citizens by a multi-disciplinary team; and
- (g) *Multi-Disciplinary Team* shall refer to a team composed of health professionals headed by the Geriatrician and includes surgeons, organ-system specialists, nurses, clinical pharmacists, rehabilitation therapists, nutritionists, dentists, social workers, caregivers, family members and patients themselves.

SEC. 4. *The National Center for Geriatric Health (NCGH).* – The National Center for Geriatric Health (NCGH), a government –owned and –controlled corporation, is hereby established for the primary benefit of senior citizens or older persons. The NCGH shall be located in San Miguel, Manila, and shall have a bed capacity of at least fifty (50).

SEC. 5. *Purposes and Objectives.* – The NCGH 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 older persons;
- (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 older persons; 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 NCGH 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 programs 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;

(e) Program development and research to develop cutting-edge research and programs to combat diseases of old age in promoting active and health care, providing necessary consultancy advice, technical assistance and standard setting to geriatric ward in every tertiary level hospital, nursing homes and residential center catering to the health and functioning needs of senior citizens.

SEC. 6. Board of Trustees. – The NCGH shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be comprised 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 the House Committee on Health;

(e) President of the Federation of Senior Citizens Association of the Philippines;

(f) One representative from the Philippine Medical Association with expertise in the field of Geriatrics or Gerontology;

(g) Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital

The terms of office, manner of appointment of the trustees and other matters pertaining to the governance of each corporate hospital shall be determined in accordance with the pertinent provision of Republic Act No. 10149, otherwise known as the "GOCC Governance Act of 2011."

All members of the Board of Trustees 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 of Trustees shall have the following powers and functions in additions to its general powers of administration:

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

(b) Formulate and develop programs for the enhancement of health care services for older persons, including the training of NCGH 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 NCGH;

(d) Receive, in trust, legacies, gifts, donations or real and personal property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the NCGH, 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 NCGH; 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 NCGH.

SEC. 8. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – The Board shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the NCGH 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 NCGH.

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 NCGH upon the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, subject to Civil Service laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. *Chief Executive Officer.* – The NCGH shall be headed by a Chief Executive Officer who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health.

The Chief Executive Officer 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 NCGH, and may delegate this power and any or some of his administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the NCGH;

(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 NCGH 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 officer and employees of the NCGH; 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 NCGH 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 provisions of any general or specific law to the contrary notwithstanding, all donations, grant contributions, gifts or endowments received by the NCGH 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 NCGH 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 NCGH 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 NCGH shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and the House Committee on Health, through its Board of Trustees, 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 (PhP250,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial operation and maintenance of the NCGH. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation of the NCGH 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. Separability Clause. – If any separable provision of this Act will be declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue to be in force.

SEC. 18. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,