

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4342

Introduced by Representative WESLIE T. GATCHALIAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution provides that *"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them"*.

Also, Art. XIII, Sec. 11, in particular states 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 under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers"*.

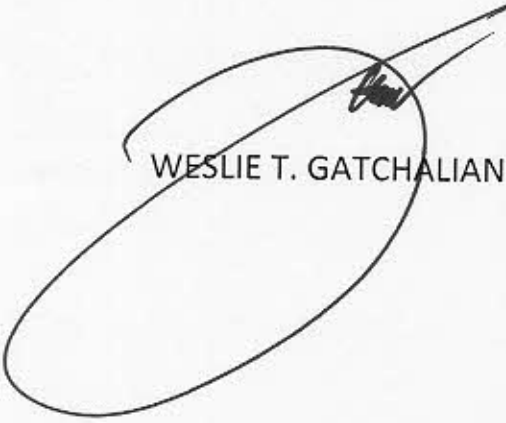
Consequently, the government must ensure that specialty hospitals (level 3) should be widely distributed geographically across the country being an archipelagic state instead of its concentration in the National Capital Region.

The Philippine Heart Center for one, is a specialty hospital and research center with the most modern facilities and state of the art equipment for heart and related diseases in the country. It has gained the reputations as one of the best Congenital Heart Surgery Centers not only in the Philippines but in the ASEAN Region as well. Yet, its location is not as comprehensive or accessible to many Filipinos in the Visayas and Mindanao.

In a country such as the Philippines, which is archipelagic in nature, the concern of decentralizing the national government from the National Capital Region should be addressed. Concomitantly, through the establishment of public specialty hospitals, particularly the Philippine Heart Center in Visayas and Mindanao, we can address the needs of less fortunate citizens who are given the additional burden of travelling to Metro Manila.

This bill therefore seeks to address the noticeable disparity in terms of hospital locations by establishing its facilities in the Visayas and Mindanao to improve the much needed medical care and services across the country thereby giving hope to every Filipinos wherever situated.

The immediate passage of this bill is therefore earnestly sought.



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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO HOSPITAL FACILITIES OF THE PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 673, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND OTHER PURPOSES.

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

Section 1. Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 673, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 1. *Creation of the Philippine Heart Center; Board of Trustees.* There is hereby created a trust, for the benefit primarily of the Filipino people, under the name and style of **Philippine Heart Center**.

The principal office, hospital and place of business shall be in the National Capital Region. It shall also establish and maintain hospital facilities in Cebu City for Visayas and Davao City for Mindanao.

The Philippine Heart Center shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, composed of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines who shall be the Governing Board of all the PHC Hospitals wherever situated. The Executive Director of the Center shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

The six appointive members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without compensation for a period of four (4) years and until their successors shall

have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines, and the appointee shall serve for the unexpired term. The Board of Trustees of the Philippine Heart Center shall elect a Chairman from among themselves, who shall be presiding officer of the Board of Trustees.

The **Executive** Director of the Philippine Heart Center shall serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board. The **Executive** Director shall act as the chief executive officer of the Philippine Heart Center, with authority, among others, to appoint, remove, and fix the compensation of the personnel thereof, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Four (4) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact business and any decision of such four members on any matter duly presented to the Board of Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of the Philippine Heart Center.

The **Hospital Director for Visayas and Mindanao Hospital Facilities** shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees on the basis of search process for a period of Six (6) years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified with a reappointment.

Section 2. Funding. To carry out the purpose of this Act, including the operation of PHC-Visayas, and the PHC-Mindanao, the land acquisition, construction, and the acquisition of hospital equipments, furniture and fixtures, the sum of One Billion (1,000,000,000.00) pesos for each hospital is hereby appropriated. Thereafter the expenses for the PHC-Visayas and PHC-Mindanao shall be provided in the General Appropriations Acts intended for the Philippine Heart Center.

Section 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Board of Trustees shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the implementation of this Act.

Section 4. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect on the day following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,