

Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6090**



Introduced by Representative Federico S. Sandoval II

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish and construct a hospital for the Philippine Coast Guard, its personnel and dependents to be known as the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital to be located in the Coast Guard Base Taguig at Lower Bicutan, Taguig City.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is mandated to perform maritime search and rescue and enforce maritime law, safety, environmental protection and maritime security. It used to be a major unit of the Philippine Navy by virtue of Republic Act (RA) No. 5173, as amended, entitled "*An Act Creating a Philippine Coast Guard, Prescribing its Powers and Functions, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes.*" In 2009, Republic Act No. 9993 otherwise known as the "*Philippine Coast Guard Law of 2009*," established the PCG as an armed and uniformed service attached to the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

On September 2, 2014, the DOTr issued Department Order No. 2014-010 restructuring the organization of the PCG to respond to its enhanced mandate, functions and responsibilities. As of December 31, 2015, the PCG organization grew to include a total personnel complement of 9,221 comprised of 8,871 uniformed personnel and 350 civilian employees.

After being separated from the Philippine Navy, all the privileges of the PCG provided by the AFP have stopped, including the medical benefits. At present, the PCG has its Coast Guard Medical Service, a medical dispensary responsible for providing administrative medical requirements of its personnel and operational medical services during calamities and maritime incidents. The high demand for health care of the PCG, the walk-in patients, the significant growth in number of the personnel and their dependents, make it very difficult for the Coast Guard Medical Service to function adequately and efficiently. The limited capabilities, medical equipment and facilities of the dispensary, the upgrade of professional learnings of the medical practitioners and other related allied medical professionals and utilization of their full potential have been compromised and sacrificed. They have to source out medical services from different public and private hospitals for the medical needs of the personnel and their dependents. Hence, we need to establish the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital.

The establishment and construction of the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital is a long awaited project that seeks to uplift the morale and welfare of the PCG personnel. It will also utilize the full potential of the very capable PCG Medical Corp. The construction of this hospital will give dignity and efficient health care delivery system to the PCG personnel and their dependents who are sick or in dire need of medical attention. This vision will be fully realized after the construction of the building and acquisition of suitable and modern hospital equipment.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. S. Sandoval II', is positioned above the printed name.

FEDERICO S. SANDOVAL II

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HOUS OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HOUSE BILL NO. 6090

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AND CONSTRUCTING A HOSPITAL FOR THE
PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, ITS PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS
TO BE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD GENERAL
HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to 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. Towards this end, and in order to adequately respond to emergencies, disasters and emerging diseases, the State shall protect the interest and promote the well-being and the medical needs of the coast guard personnel and their dependents.

SEC. 3. *Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital.* – To the carry out the above policy, a hospital for the personnel and employees of the Philippine Coast Guard and their dependents is hereby established to be known as the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital. The hospital shall be constructed and built in the Coast Guard Base Taguig, Lower Bicutan, Taguig City.

SEC. 4. *Objectives.* – To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality health care, the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital shall have the following objectives:

a.) To provide a comprehensive and total health care services to all personnel and employees of the Philippine Coast Guard and their dependents;

b.) To complement the existing package of services under the health care program so as to include preventive, promotive, diagnostic, curative and rehabilitative programs;

c.) To conduct medical examination of all the trainees of the Philippine Coast Guard to ensure their physical and mental capability; and

d.) To monitor the condition of patients and to generate relevant information and data in aid of policy information.

For purposes of this Act, *dependents* refer to: (a) the legitimate spouse dependent for support upon the concerned coast guard personnel, (b) the legitimate, illegitimate, or legally adopted children, chiefly dependent upon and living with the coast guard personnel if such child is not more than twenty-one (21) years of age, unmarried and not gainfully employed or is over the age of majority but incapacitated and incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical defect and (c) the parents dependent upon the coast guard personnel for support.

SEC. 5. Administration. – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital shall be administered by a Board of Directors consisting of:

- (a) The Secretary of Health, as ex-officio chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of Transportation, as ex-officio vice-chairperson;
- (c) Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard;
- (d) Deputy Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard; and
- (e) Command Surgeon of the Philippine Coast Guard Medical Service; as members.

SEC. 6. Powers and Responsibilities. – The Board of Directors of the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

(a) Formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the objectives of the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital;

(b) Develop a program of patient care and hospital administration that includes the establishment, management, operation and maintenance of a hospital organization with clearly defined lines of administration, operational and professional authority and responsibility, functional relationships, and lines of communication and coordination among its various administrative and operational units;

(c) Organize the structure of the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital in accordance with the staffing pattern prepared by it and approved by the Department of Budget and Management, appoint the officials and employees of the hospital, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations, prescribe their duties and fix their compensation subject to the provisions of Republic Act. No. 6758, otherwise known as the "*Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989*."

(d) Provide training for all hospital personnel so that the highest professional level of patient care may be maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health;

(e) Enter into agreements and contracts in connection with its establishment, maintenance, operations and objectives;

(f) Issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act; and

(g) Perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

SEC. 7. *Appropriation.* – The amount of Four Hundred Million Pesos (P400,000,000) is hereby appropriated for the establishment and initial operation of the Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital. Thereafter, future appropriations for its operation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – The Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in the newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,