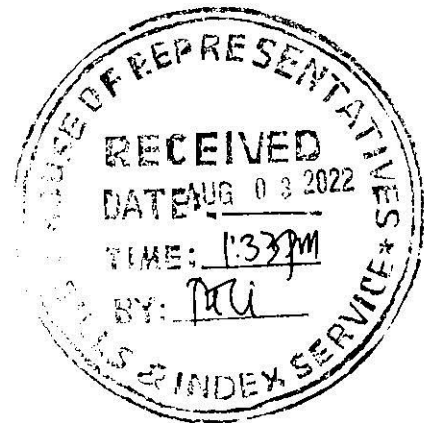




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. **3094**

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE
THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, DEFINING ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a span of almost three years, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has infected more than 576 million persons and has taken the lives of more than 6.4 million individuals worldwide.¹ For countries that do not have strong public health care systems and facilities for control and prevention of communicable and infectious diseases, the pandemic has shaken not only public health institutions but economic spheres severely as well.

With the recent data on its pandemic response, the Philippines' public health systems remain vulnerable to the challenges of this global health crisis. More than 3.7 million COVID-19 cases and more than sixty thousand COVID-19 related deaths have been recorded since the beginning of the pandemic.²

Our lack of well-established health institutions geared and focused on the control and prevention of communicable and infectious diseases is appalling. From the sudden emergence

¹ World Health Organization (WHO). 25 July 2022. <https://covid19.who.int/>

² World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines. 20 July 2022.
<https://www.who.int/philippines/internal-publications-detail/covid-19-in-the-philippines-situation-report-106>

of polio-related diseases, to increase in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-related infections, to outbreaks of tuberculosis and dengue, the need for an institution to focus and create scientifically-accurate and research-backed solutions to combat infectious and emerging diseases is called for now more than ever.

While recognizing that the Department of Health has its considerable wins in the delivery of public health services during the pandemic, we must empower it further through upgrading its institutional capabilities in combating the ever-evolving wave of communicable diseases.

This bill seeks to establish a Philippine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which shall serve as the principal health protection agency of the Philippines aimed at preventing, protecting, and managing the spread of communicable and infectious diseases and other health emergencies in the country.

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


TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR



3094

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE
THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, DEFINING ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Center for Disease
2 Control and Prevention Act”
3

4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State:
5

- 6 (a) To protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness
7 among them;
8 (b) To adopt, support, establish, and maintain an effective health mechanism responsive to
9 the country’s health needs, and emergency;
10 (c) To ensure the health and wellbeing of Filipinos and protect them from communicable
11 diseases;
12 (d) To prevent the emergence and transmission of serious diseases;
13 (e) To provide a framework for communicable disease control and prevention in the
14 country; and
15 (f) To establish a health protection agency to save lives and protect people from health
16 threats.
17

18 **SECTION 3. *Creation of the Philippine Center for Disease Control and***
19 ***Prevention.*** – There is hereby created an independent body to be known as
20 the Philippine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, hereinafter referred
21 to as “CDC”.
22

23 The CDC shall be the principal agency tasked to identify, assess, and
24 communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by

communicable diseases. It shall carry out activities and programs for the prevention and control of communicable diseases for the promotion of public health.

The CDC shall be attached to the Department of Health for policy and program coordination.

SECTION 4. Powers and Functions. – The CDC shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- (a) Establish procedures for systematically searching for, collecting, collating and analyzing information and data to identify emerging health threats in the country;
- (b) Undertake research activities in the diagnosis, control, and prevention of communicable diseases that are major causes of mortality and morbidity in the country;
- (c) Investigate disease outbreaks and other treats to public health;
- (d) Conduct clinical trials aimed at better understanding and control of communicable diseases in the country;
- (e) Foster the development of sufficient capacity for diagnosis, detection, identification, and characterization of infectious agents which may threaten public health;
- (f) Coordinate data collection, validation, analysis, and provide health information to protect against expensive and dangerous health threats;
- (g) Ensure that the public and any interested party are rapidly given objective, reliable, and easily accessible information with regard to the results of its work;
- (h) Provide information, expertise, advice, and risk assessment to local government units in the control and prevention of communicable diseases;
- (i) Assist local government units in the control of a broad range of communicable diseases;
- (j) Formulate an early warning and response system to make available information for the general public;
- (k) Confront global disease threats through advanced computing and laboratory analysis of data to quickly find solutions to the same;
- (l) Maintain the database for epidemiological surveillance;
- (m) Provide independent scientific opinions, expert advice, data and information;
- (n) Promote and initiate scientific studies necessary for the prevention and control of communicable diseases;
- (o) Submit to Congress an annual evaluation of the current and emerging threats to health in the country.

68 **SECTION 5. *Early Warning and Response System.*** – The CDC shall operate
69 an Early Warning and Response System which will ensure that the national
70 government and local government units are able to respond in a timely and
71 coordinated manner to emerging health threats in the country.

72
73 The CDC shall take action to ensure that the early warning and
74 response system is efficiently and effectively linked with other forms of
75 community alert systems.

76
77 **SECTION 6. *Obligation of Local Government Units.*** – Local government
78 units must provide the CDC in a timely manner available health and technical
79 data relevant to the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

80
81 **SECTION 7. *Transfer of Agencies and Personnel.*** – The following offices
82 and agencies are hereby abolished and their powers and functions, applicable
83 funds and appropriations, records, equipment, property, and personnel
84 transferred to the CDC:

- 85 (a) Infectious Diseases for Elimination Division (under the Disease
86 Prevention and Control Bureau of the Department of Health);
87 (b) Infectious Diseases for Prevention and Control Division (under the
88 Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of the Department of Health);
89 (c) The Epidemiological Bureau of the Department of Health; and
90 (d) The Research Institute of Tropical Medicine.

91
92 **SECTION 8. *Executive Director.*** – The CDC shall be headed by an Executive
93 Director, with the rank of Undersecretary, who shall be appointed by the
94 President on the basis of technical expertise, academic background, and
95 appropriate work experience.

96
97 The Executive Director shall perform the following functions and
98 powers:

- 99 (a) Manage and direct the activities of the Philippine Center for Disease
100 Control and Prevention;
101 (b) Coordinate CDC response to health emergencies;
102 (c) Certify to the existence of an epidemic, which shall be treated as a
103 public health emergency;
104 (d) Recommend to the President the exercise of special powers in case of
105 confirmation as to the existence of an epidemic;
106 (e) Coordinate local and international health activities relating to disease
107 prevention and control;
108 (f) Liaise with other government agencies, international organizations,
109 including the World Health Organization, learning institutions, and
110 other relevant outside groups; and
111 (g) Appoint employees of the CDC in accordance with the Civil Service Law,
112 and other relevant rules and regulations.

113 **SECTION 9. *Organizational Structure.*** – The Secretary of the Department
114 of Health, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management
115 (DBM), shall determine the organizational structure, qualification standards,
116 staffing pattern, and compensation of the newly created CDC, in accordance
117 with existing laws, rules, and regulations.
118

119 **SECTION 10. *Appropriations.*** – The amount needed for the initial
120 implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal year's
121 appropriation of the offices and agency herein absorbed by the CDC.
122 Thereafter, the amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the CDC
123 shall be included under the Department of Health in the General
124 Appropriations Act.
125

126 **SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be
127 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise
128 affected shall remain in full force and effect.
129

130 **SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, rules and regulations,
131 other issuances, or part thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act,
132 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
133

134 **SECTION 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
135 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
136 circulation.
137

138 *Approved,*