

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4293



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This is a refilled bill which was previously filed by Rep. Alfredo C. Maranon, III, during the Fifteenth Congress, it was then refilled during the Seventeenth Congress by Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez and Rep. Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado. The latter refilled it again during the Eighteenth Congress however all of which was referred to the Committee on Health however it was overlooked on all of the respective Congresses.

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Center which will provide comprehensive, high quality, affordable and specialized medical services for the prevention, control and treatment of ear, nose, throat, head, and neck (ENTHN) disorders”.

The Constitution provides 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.” (Section 11, Article XIII, 1987 Philippine Constitution).

Considering the current status of our health care with the emergence of viral diseases which targets the subject at hand, such bill should be urgently considered. ENTH diseases in the country have become more prevalent and have affected the quality of life of most Filipinos.

Respiratory tract infections which include colds, sinusitis, nasopharyngitis, and laryngitis are among the leading causes of morbidity in the Philippines. According to a scientific study, 1-2 per 1000 live births were born with cleft lip or cleft palate and more than a million Filipinos were estimated to have hearing impairment. ENTHN diseases not only affect the productivity and performance of a person but also cause permanent physical disabilities and deformities. Despite the high prevalence rate of ENTHN diseases and their tremendous effect on health, these conditions have not been given enough attention and priority.

It is hoped that this bill will help solve the health gap and provide the Filipinos with a specialty center that will cater exclusively to ENT care, prevention and better health management.

The earnest support of the Members of the House of Representatives for the approval of this bill is highly requested.


JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT (ENT) CENTER AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1
2 SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State
3 to promote and protect the right of the people to health by providing specialized health
4 and medical services that will secure their well-being. Towards this end, the State shall
5 establish an ear, nose and throat (ENT) center that will provide comprehensive, high
6 quality, affordable and specialized medical services for the prevention, control and
7 treatment of ear, nose, throat, head and neck (ENTHN) diseases.

8
9 SEC. 2. Philippine Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Center. — The Philippine Ear,
10 Nose and Throat (ENT) Center, hereinafter referred to as the Philippine ENT Center, is
11 hereby established under the supervision of the Department of Health to intensify and
12 consolidate the efforts and programs of the government in the prevention, diagnosis
13 and treatment of ENTHN diseases and provide comprehensive, high quality, affordable
14 and specialized medical services to citizens afflicted with ENTHN disease.

15
16 The Department of Health shall provide the area where the ENT Center will be
17 established within one (1) year from the approval of this Act.

18
19 The Philippine ENT Center shall have the following objectives:

20
21 a) Construct, establish, equip, operate and maintain a medical
22 institution which shall specialize in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of
23 ENTHN diseases, and provide medical care, rehabilitation and relief of persons
24 suffering from it;

25
26 b) Undertake medical and scientific researches relative to the prevention,
27 diagnosis, treatment of ENTHN diseases and create public awareness on its
28 prevention and control through information dissemination;

29

1 c) Finance, sponsor, hold or participate in congresses, conventions,
2 conferences, seminars, work-shops and training programs on ENTHN diseases,
3 diagnosis and management;

4
5 d) Facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and
6 information on the prevention, control and treatment of ENTHN diseases;

7
8 e) Encourage and assist in the education and training of physicians,
9 nurses, health officers, social workers and other medical and technical personnel
10 in the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of ENTHN diseases
11 prevention and treatment programs;

12
13 f) Coordinate and consolidate various efforts and activities of the
14 government in delivering more effective medical services to treat and prevent.
15 ENTHN diseases; and

16
17 g) Help in the promotion of Philippine medical tourism by offering top
18 quality and world class medical services in treating ENTHN disorders,
19
20

21 SEC. 3. Scope of Services. — Consistent with its objectives, the Philippine ENT
22 Center shall provide the following services:

23
24 a) Hospital-based services to ensure the availability of medical facilities
25 and equipment necessary to provide treatment of ENTHN diseases;

26
27 b) Community-based services to develop and implement community –
28 based programs in partnership with local government units, conduct research and
29 external resource outsourcing to implement community-based diagnosis and
30 treatment of ENTHN diseases;

31
32 c) Education programs to pursue excellence and the highest level of
33 practice in the specialized field of ENTHN diseases and other related fields,
34 conduct post-graduate training and short-term courses for medical doctors and
35 allied medical professionals; and

36
37 d) Program development and research to develop cutting edge research
38 and programs to combat diseases of the ear, nose, throat, head and neck.
39
40

41 SEC. 4. Board of Trustees. — The Philippine ENT Center shall be administered
42 by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be composed of seven (7)
43 members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation
44 of the Secretary of Health.

45
46 The members of the Board shall serve for a period of three (3) years. All members shall
47 serve without compensation other than actual and necessary expenses, in accordance
48 with the existing laws, policies and rules and regulations on the matter, incurred either for
49 attendance in meetings of the Board or upon official business authorized by a resolution
50 of the Board.

51
52 SEC. 5. Powers and Functions. — The Board shall have the following powers
53 and functions in addition to their general powers of administration:
54

1 a) Formulate and adopt the by-laws, rules and regulations, policies,
2 guidelines and procedures consistent with law and the provisions of this Act to
3 govern the administration and operations of the Philippine ENT Center;
4

5 b) Formulate and develop programs for the prevention, control and
6 treatment of ENTHN diseases and adopt measures which are necessary to carry
7 out the provisions of this Act;
8

9 c) Enter into such agreements and arrangements with other medical
10 institutions, domestic or foreign, as may be necessary in attaining the purposes
11 and objectives of the Philippine ENT Center;
12

13 d) Receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real or personal property
14 of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the Philippine ENT Center,
15 in accordance with the directions and instructions of the donor, and in default
16 thereof, in such manner as in its discretion the Board may determine;
17

18 e) Acquire and hold property of whatever nature or description, and to
19 dispose such properties under any mode of encumbrance and conveyance;
20

21 f) Invite foreign ENTHN specialists and similar experts in the various
22 medical fields to train the personnel of the Philippine ENT Center or send
23 personnel to research or medical institutes or universities for advance training or
24 observation or to attend international or regional conventions, conferences,
25 congresses and seminars as the Board may deem necessary to accomplish the
26 purposes and objectives of the Philippine ENT Center; and
27

28 g) Perform all such other acts and things as are or may be necessary for
29 or incidental to the accomplishment of the objectives of the Philippine ENT Center.
30
31

32 SEC. 6. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern. — The Board shall
33 determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the Philippine ENT Center
34 subject to the evaluation by the Civil Service Commission and of the Organization Position
35 Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management.
36 The Board may reorganize said structure, modify the staffing pattern and create or abolish
37 divisions, sections or units in the Philippine ENT Center.
38

39 SEC. 7. Appointment by the Board, — The Board shall have the authority to
40 appoint, promote, transfer, remove, suspend or otherwise discipline the officers and
41 employees of the Philippine ENT Center upon the recommendation of the Executive
42 Director, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations.
43

44 SEC. 8. Executive Director— The Philippine ENT Center shall be administered
45 by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon
46 the recommendation of the Board of Trustees,
47

48 The Executive Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:
49

50 a) Execute the policies, guidelines and programs approved by the Board,
51 and be responsible for the efficient discharge of management and operational
52 functions;
53

1 b) Submit for the consideration and approval of the Board proposed
2 measures, policies and guidelines and programs as may be deemed necessary for
3 the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;
4

5 c) Direct and supervise the management, operation, and administration of
6 the Philippine ENT Center, and may delegate this power and any or some of the
7 administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the Philippine ENT
8 Center;
9

10 d) Recommend to the Board the appointment, promotion, transfer,
11 dismissal and suspension of the officers and employees of the Philippine ENT
12 Center;
13

14 e) Execute on behalf of the Board all contracts and agreements which the
15 latter may enter into, and to execute, accomplish and deliver any and all
16 documents relative to such contracts and agreements; and
17

18 f) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be
19 vested by the Board.
20

21 SEC. 9. Program for Indigents — The Board shall ensure that the Philippine ENT
22 Center shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents. The number of beds allocated for
23 indigent patients shall not be less than forty percent (40%) of the total number of hospital
24 beds.
25

26 SEC. 10. Tax Exemptions and Privileges. — The provision of any general or
27 special law to the contrary notwithstanding, all donations, grants, contributions, gifts or
28 endowments received by the Philippine ENT Center pursuant hereto, shall be exempt
29 from income, gift and all other kinds of taxes, and shall be further considered as allowable
30 deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the
31 National Internal Revenue Code of 4997, as amended.
32

33 The Philippine ENT Center is hereby declared exempt from all income and all other
34 internal revenue taxes, tariff and customs duties and all other kinds of taxes, fees, charges
35 and assessments levied by the government and its political subdivisions, agencies and
36 instrumentalities.
37

38 The Philippine ENT Center may request and receive assistance from the different
39 agencies, bureaus, offices or instrumentalities of the government, including the
40 Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming
41 Corporation in pursuit of its purposes and objectives.
42

43 SEC. 11. Annual Report. — The Philippine ENT Center shall submit an annual
44 report to the President of the Philippines, the Senate Committee on Health and
45 Demography and the House Committee on Health, on its activities, accomplishments
46 and recommendations to better improve their delivery of specialized medical services.
47

48 SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Secretary of Health shall,
49 in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and Management, promulgate such rules
50 and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.
51

52 SEC. 13. Appropriations. — The amount of five hundred million pesos (P500,
53 000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial operation and maintenance of the
54 Philippine ENT Center. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued

1 operation of the Philippine ENT Center shall be included in the annual General
2 Appropriations Act.

3
4 SEC. 14. Repealing clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
5 regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby
6 repealed or modified accordingly.

7
8 SEC. 15. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

10
11 Approved,