

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5694



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The **Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care** is a government-owned and controlled corporation attached to the Department of Health (**DOH**) which was created on December 7, 1997 by **Republic Act No. 8423**, otherwise known as the **Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act (TAMA) of 1997** authored by Senator Juan M. Flavio.

PITAHC is currently headed by **Director-General** Annabelle Pabiona-De Guzman, MD, FPAFP, MHA, MA Med (UK), CESE under the direction of a Board of Trustees composed of representatives from different government agencies namely: Department of Science and Technology (DOST); Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); Department of Agriculture (DA); Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and representatives from the industries/sectors namely: a physician engaged in the practice of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM); a member from a duly recognized academe engaged in T&CM research; a T&CM practitioner who is not a physician; a western medical practitioner preferably from the Philippine Medical Association; one member from the natural food industry and one member from environmental sector. The board is chaired by the **Secretary of Health**.

This House Bill seeks to provide **Modernization Funding** to the **Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC)**, to lead in the research and development, promotion and advocacy of developmental standards on traditional and complementary medicine.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR MODERNIZATION FUNDINGFOR THE
**PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE
HEALTH CARE (PITAHC)**, INCREASING AND REORGANIZING ITS
ADMINISTRATION, TO LEAD IN THE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION, ADVOCACY OF DEVELOPMENTAL
STANDARDS ON TRADITIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY
MEDICINE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY – It shall hereby be a
declared policy of the State to:

1. Encourage scientific research on and develop traditional and alternative health care systems that have direct impact on public health care;
2. Promote and advocate the use of traditional, alternative, preventive, and curative health care modalities that have been proven safe, effective, cost effective and consistent with government standards on medical practice;
3. Develop and coordinate skills training courses for

various forms of traditional and alternative health care modalities;

4. Formulate standards, guidelines and codes of ethical practice appropriate for the practice of traditional and alternative health care as well as in the manufacture, quality control and marketing of different traditional and alternative health care materials, natural and organic products, for approval' and adoption by the appropriate government agencies;

5. Formulate policies for the protection of indigenous and natural health resources and technology from unwarranted exploitation, for approval and adoption by the appropriate government agencies;

6. Formulate policies to strengthen the role of traditional and alternative health care delivery system; and

7. Promote traditional and alternative health care in international and national conventions, seminars and meetings in coordination with the Department of Tourism, Duty Free Philippines, Incorporated, Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation and other tourism-related agencies as well as non-government organizations and local government units.

The state shall continually improve the effectiveness of our Quality Management System towards equitable development for improved quality of life for all.

The state shall formulate policies for the efficient and effective administration and management of all manpower, skills and competencies to ensure compliance.

SECTION 2. MODERNIZATION FUNDING. – The amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos (**Php 300,000,000.00**) for the operation and administration of the **Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC)** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**. Thereafter, appropriations for the **Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC)** shall be included in the budget proposals under the Department of Health (**DOH**).

The Department of Budget and Management (**DBM**) shall rationalize the existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the **Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC)** in accordance with the provisions of this Act and relevant compensation and position classification laws, rules and regulations.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (**GAA**).

SECTION 3. PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE (PITAHC) MODERNIZATION FUND – There is hereby created the (**PITAHC**) *Modernization Fund* to be used exclusively for the (**PITAHC**) *Modernization Program*.

The (**FDA**) *Modernization Fund* shall be administered by the Secretary of the **DOH** in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. PROGRESS REPORT – The Secretary of **DOH** shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the (**PITAHC**) *Modernization Programs* which shall be submitted, to the Office of the President

and to the Chairpersons of the Committee on Health of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 5. PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of two **(2)** years:

Provided, that payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period:

Provided, further, That the **Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC)** shall continue to develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

SECTION 6. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS. – The **Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC)** shall continue to exercise and uphold the following powers and functions; but not limited to:

PITAHC is currently headed by Director-General Annabelle Pabiona-De Guzman, MD, FPAFP, MHA, MA Med (UK), CESE under the direction of a Board of Trustees composed of representatives from different government agencies namely: Department of Science and Technology **(DOST)**; Department of Environment and Natural Resources **(DENR)**; Department of Agriculture **(DA)**; Commission on Higher Education **(CHED)**; and representatives from the industries/sectors namely: a physician engaged in the practice of Traditional and Complementary Medicine **(T&CM)**; a member from a duly recognized academe engaged in T&CM research; a T&CM practitioner who is not a physician; a western medical practitioner preferably from the Philippine Medical Association; one member from the natural food industry and one member from environmental sector. The board is chaired by the Secretary of Health.

- a)** To plan and carry out research and development activities in the areas of traditional and alternative health care and its ultimate integration into the national health care delivery system;
- b)** To verify, package and transfer economically viable technologies in the field of traditional and alternative health care, giving emphasis on the social engineering aspects necessary for group endeavor;
- c)** To provide the database for policy formulation that will stimulate and sustain production, marketing and consumption of traditional and alternative health care products;
- d)** To organize and develop continuing training programs for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, and other professional health workers and students, as well as scientists, research managers and extension workers in the field of traditional and alternative health care;
- e)** To formulate policies that would create public awareness through educational activities, conventions, seminars, conferences, and the like by focusing on the promotion of healthy living for preventing disease, thereby uplifting the health care industry;
- f)** To acquire or obtain from any governmental authority whether national or local, foreign or domestic , or from any person, corporation, partnership, association or other entity, such charters, franchises, licenses, rights, privileges, assistance, financial or otherwise, and concessions as are conducive to and necessary or proper for the attainment of its purpose and objectives;
- g)** To receive and acquire from any person and/or government and private entities, whether foreign or domestic, grants,

donations and contributions consisting of such properties, real or personal, including funds and valuable effects or things, as may useful, necessary or proper to carry out its purposes and objectives and administer the same in accordance with the terms of such grants, donations and contributions, consistent with its purposes and objectives;

- h)** To serve as the coordinating center of a national network of traditional and alternative health care stations located in the different regions of the country;
- i)** To formulate a code of ethics and standards for the practice of traditional and alternative health care modalities for approval and adoption by the appropriate professional and government agencies;
- j)** To formulate standards and guidelines for the manufacture, marketing and quality control of different traditional and alternative health care materials and products for approval and adoption by the Bureau of Food and Drugs;
- k)** To coordinate with other institutions and agencies involved in the research on herbal medicine;
- l)** To adopt and use a corporate seal;
- m)** To sue and be sued in its corporate name;
- n)** To succeed by its corporate name;
- o)** To adopt its by-laws and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary or proper to implement this ACT, and to amend or repeal the same from time to time;
- p)** To enter, into, make and execute contracts and agreements of any kind or nature; and
- q)** To borrow, raise or obtain funds, or to enter into any financial or credit arrangement in order to support or carry out in research programs, finance its capital and operating

expenses, subject to pertinent laws governing public debts and expenditures.

SECTION 7. INCREASE OF PERSONNEL. – The **PITAHC** shall maintain the sufficient staffing pattern. Hence, it is authorized to increase its manpower to meet such required and may continue to increase personnel per percentage rate increase of committed mandates annually or as the need arises.

SECTION 8. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 10. 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.

SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,