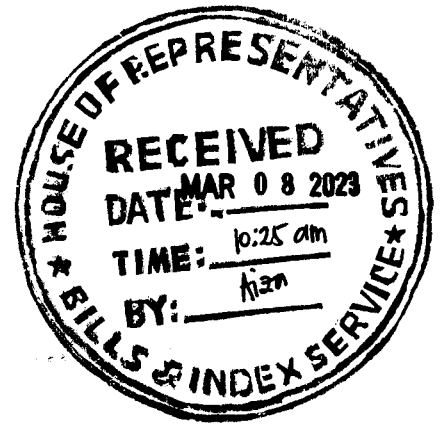


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7520



Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an Anti-Rabies Center in each congressional district in the country. The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) reported that rabies is still one of the most prevalent threats to public health in the Philippines. According to the Department of Health (DOH) an average of 200 to 300 individuals die yearly said that in the Philippines because of rabies, a viral disease that attacks the central nervous system.¹

Similarly, new research suggests that the Philippines' inadequate measures to control rabies led to its failure to reduce the incidence of the deadly viral disease transmitted mainly through the bite of dogs and other animals.²

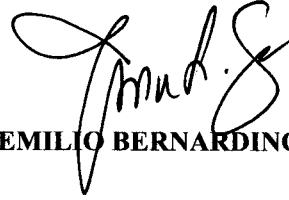
Republic Act No. 9482 was enacted in 2007 with the aim to control and eliminate human and animal rabies by 2020. However, studies highlight the fact that the incidence of rabies in the Philippines has plateaued. Hence, an additional measure to strengthen current public health programs to reduce and finally eradicate this fatal disease need to be supplemented to the current efforts.

In that regard, this bill seeks to establish an Anti-Rabies Center in each congressional district in the country to reduce the public's risk and deaths caused by rabies and the considerable financial burden that it incurs, provide efficient and accessible facilities for each district, and achieve good rabies control.

¹Inquirer.net, With over 200 average deaths yearly, PH far from rabies-free status, September 27, 2022, accessible at <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1671440/with-over-200-average-deaths-yearly-ph-far-from-rabies-free-status>

²SciDev.net, Philippines 'failing to control' rabies, August 15, 2022, accessible at <https://www.scidev.net/asia-pacific/news/philippines-failing-to-control-rabies/>

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilio S.", with a large, stylized initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

 **HOUSE BILL NO. 7520**

Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANTI-RABIES CENTER IN EACH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT NATIONWIDE AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF**

*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 “Anti-Rabies Center
Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principles.* It shall be the policy of the State to uphold the
constitutional right of the people for the protection of their life and property and the
promotion of the general welfare. Towards this end, the State shall establish and maintain
fully equipped and operational Anti-Rabies Centers, responsive to the immediate needs
of the locality where it is situated. It shall ensure that quality health services and
treatments are available and accessible to them.

SEC. 3. *Establishment.* There is hereby established Anti-Rabies Centers in each
Congressional District in the country in a highly accessible area, under the supervision of
the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Interior and Local Government
(DILG), in collaboration with the other concerned agencies, if necessary.

SEC. 4. *Anti-Rabies Centers.* There shall be established an anti-rabies center in
each Congressional District in the country which shall provide urgent treatment for
anti-rabies, administer relevant vaccines, and initiate comprehensive medication to
mitigate human rabies deaths.

Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to effectively serve as anti-rabies centers could be designated as such in compliance with the Local Government Unit (LGU) where the Center in each Congressional District is situated.

SEC. 5. *Purposes and Objectives.* The Anti-Rabies Centers shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a) To establish, maintain, and operate such health institution that shall provide a system of treatment for those infected with rabies and sufficient anti-rabies vaccine shots;
- b) To provide education and training of health and technical personnel in the practice and scientific implementation of the services; and
- c) To coordinate the various efforts and activities of other government agencies and LGUs for the purpose of achieving an integrated approach to mitigating rabies deaths.
- d) To strengthen public awareness through information education and communication campaigns against rabies.

SEC. 6. *Location of the Anti-Rabies Centers.* The provincial office of DILG, in coordination with the DOH, shall determine the location of each district's Anti-Rabies Centers taking into consideration the accessibility of these facilities to the most number of human rabies deaths in the locality.

SEC. 7. *Operation and Management.* The LGUs concerned shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of Anti-Rabies Centers established under this Act. They are also empowered to issue rules and regulations on their proper use and maintenance.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's program the establishment and operationalization of the Anti-Rabies Centers in each respective Congressional districts, the funding of which shall be included in the budget of the DOH under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The DOH, in coordination with the respective LGUs of the districts, DILG, and other concerned agencies, shall formulate, identify, and promulgate the implementing guidelines, rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* In the event that any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Approved,