

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7872



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a modern and efficient blood services network in the country and the institutionalization of hospital-based blood centers to cater effectively and efficiently to the needs of patients.

Blood is a necessary fluid component of the body; it carries oxygen, minerals and all other component that is needed for the body to function properly. Blood is a source of life and yet most of the time taken for granted. The need for it is usually appreciated when only there is an emergency, trauma, pending operation and basically during the life threatening situations. The shortage of blood is a prevalent case experienced by our health care professionals, hospitals and patients nationwide especially during the height of the pandemic, extreme natural disasters and emergencies.

This proposed measure complements the existing law, Republic Act No. 7719 otherwise known as the "National Blood Services Act of 1994" wherein it promotes voluntary blood donation to provide adequate supply of safe blood and regulating blood banks.

At present, the leading provider of donated blood comes from the Philippine National Red Cross with 100 blood service facilities nationwide. It supplies majority of the blood supply requirements of patients especially those from the vulnerable sectors. The rest of the blood supplies are sourced from government hospitals, private hospitals, non-hospital based facilities, and national reference laboratories like the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute.

There is a need to adopt an online national registry of blood donors, accurate inventory of blood availability, and provide the means of dispatching or transporting this when the need arises. To safeguard the integrity of the data, the Department of Health shall provide the appropriate technology for the implementation of this system nationwide with adequate professional personnel to manage this system.

Thus, the need to institutionalize a Philippine Blood Center as the repository and administrator of the national blood services network. The staffing requirements and the budget for the operationalization of the Philippine Blood Center, institutionalizing a digital blood services network and registry as well as coordinating the requirements of all blood centers nationwide shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Health.

The DOH shall maintain its coordinative and complementary relationship with the Philippine National Red Cross and such other institutions that highly supports the voluntary blood donation program of the government.

We hope to have a Blood Center that can respond and serve effectively the needs of our health sector especially the vulnerable members of our society.

The strong support of the Members of Congress is earnestly sought for the approval of this bill.


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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE BLOOD SERVICES NETWORK AND PROMOTING
SAFE AND ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF BLOOD IN ALL BLOOD CENTERS
NATIONWIDE

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

1
2 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Blood Services Network Act*”.

3
4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
5 the right of patients to appropriate and non-discriminatory quality health and medical
6 care in all health care facilities within its competence, available manpower, and facility
7 resources especially during critical situations and emergencies.

8
9 The State shall adopt an integrated and relevant approach with the use of available
10 technology to improve health services and health management particularly in providing
11 adequate and safe essential health products and supplies to all patients at an affordable
12 cost.

13
14 The Department of Health is mandated to spearhead and promote regular nationwide
15 voluntary blood donation drives to ensure the availability of blood stocks in all blood
16 centers nationwide and promote a blood registry system for easy reference in the
17 national blood services network. Towards this goal, the DOH may coordinate and
18 collaborate with the Philippine National Red Cross, various institutions and foundations
19 to generate awareness, participation and understanding of the voluntary blood donation
20 activities.

21
22 Sec. 3. *Creation of the Philippine Blood Center (PBC).* – A Philippine Blood Center
23 (PBC) shall be created under the Department of Health with office at the vicinity of the
24 Lung Center of the Philippines. It shall established a Philippine Blood Services Network
25 (PBSN), a digital portal as a repository of the blood registry of regular blood volunteers,
26 patients with blood availments in all health facilities nationwide and those availing blood
27 typing requirements.

28
29 The PBC shall coordinate with the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) and all health
30 institutions to get its voluntary blood donors data and register it in the national registry
31 and ensure data integrity in compliance with the existing Data Privacy Act of 2012
32 otherwise known as Republic Act No. 10173.

33
34 It shall provide basic identification protocols which will be used as reference to contact
35 volunteers during voluntary blood donation campaigns in their area and when the need
36 arises during critical blood supply shortage and with the consent of the volunteers to
37 donate blood on these situations.

1
2 The PBC and all blood centers shall be allowed to collect reasonable fees for the
3 collection, processing and transport of blood based on the guidelines prescribed by the
4 Department of Health.

5
6 *Sec 4. Organizational Structure of the Philippine Blood Center.* – The Philippine Blood
7 Center shall be headed by an Executive Director with at least ten (10) years relevant
8 experience.

9
10 The PBC Executive Director shall sit as a regular member of the Philippine Blood
11 Coordinating Council.

12
13 The staffing requirements for the functional, technical and operational requirements of
14 the Center shall be submitted by the Department of Health in accordance with the
15 Organization Structure and Staffing Pattern (OSSP) of the Department of Budget and
16 Management.

17
18 *Sec. 5. Role and Authority of the Philippine Blood Center.* – The Center shall handle the
19 following functions:

- 20 1.) Issuance of the Certificate of Inclusion in the blood services network;
- 21 2.) Approve the schedules of voluntary blood donation activities nationwide in
22 partnership with the regional centers for health development and in
23 coordination with different health facilities and volunteer organizations;
- 24 3.) Consult and coordinate with local government units and various stakeholders
25 in recruitment and invitation of voluntary blood donors;
- 26 4.) Prepare the protocols for collection of blood, appropriate storage, distribution
27 and transport of blood in all health facilities including non-hospital based
28 blood banks and national reference laboratories;
- 29 5.) Conduct training and accreditation of health professionals for all blood bank
30 nationwide;
- 31 6.) Conduct appropriate clinical research, trials, and examination of blood
32 samples;
- 33 7.) Provide facility and equipment standards for all blood banks in the blood
34 services network including inspection for compliance purposes;
- 35 8.) Processing of whole blood into blood components including related activities;
- 36 9.) Extract and Collect blood from volunteers and patients with their consent as
37 part of the continuity plan to ensure ready supply of blood;
- 38 10.) Ensure the safe and adequate supply of blood and blood products to all
39 health facilities in accordance with the requirements of each facility based on
40 the digital portal registry data;
- 41 11.) Classify, accredit and establish regional blood centers and allow mobile
42 blood centers in highly urbanized areas;
- 43 12.) Promote mobile and health facility-based voluntary blood donation; and
- 44 13.) May perform such other functions consistent with the provisions of this
45 Act.

46
47 *Sec. 6. Regional Blood Centers.* – Every regional DOH Center for Health Development
48 (CHD) including the BARMM shall have one blood center equip with adequate health
49 professional and staff with appropriate space and necessary equipment to manage and
50 handle the blood requirements of patients and collaborate with the various health
51 stakeholders.

52
53 It shall provide the Philippine Blood Center with accurate data for its inventory of blood
54 stocks in their area of jurisdiction and provide alternate solutions for the easy and fast
55 dispatch of blood requirements to meet the demand of patients and health providers.
56

1 The budgetary requirements for the additional CHD personnel for their blood center will
2 be included in the annual regional budget of the DOH to effectively implement the
3 provisions of this Act.

4
5 *Sec. 7. Provincial Blood Centers.* – There should be a blood center established in every
6 Provincial Hospital. It shall provide the Philippine Blood Center with accurate data for its
7 inventory of blood stocks in their facility.

8
9 The budgetary requirements for the health care professional, essential manpower
10 requirements and the necessary equipment if needed, shall be included in the annual
11 budget of the respective provincial hospital.

12
13 The construction for the appropriate space for the blood center in the provincial hospital
14 shall be included in the annual DOH Health Facility Enhancement Program (HFEP).

15
16 *Sec. 8. Tax Exemptions.* – The PBC with clearance from the Department of Health shall
17 be allowed to import Blood Bank Equipment, blood bags, reagents, and such other
18 related supplies. It shall be exempted from all government taxes and duties when the
19 importation is made by the PBC for its facility use and for the use of all regional Center
20 for Health Development with a certification from the Department of Health duly
21 submitted to the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs.

22
23 The PBC shall be allowed to accept donations, grants, contributions, gifts and other
24 kinds of gratuitous acts in connection with its institutional mandate and all these
25 gratuitous acts shall be exempted from all national taxes. The donors of these
26 donations, gifts and gratuitous acts shall be allowed to deduct this from their gross
27 income consistent with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997,
28 as amended and the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act” (CMTA), otherwise known
29 as “Republic Act No. 10863”.

30
31 *Sec. 9. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act
32 shall be charged against the current budget of the Department of Health.

33
34 For the succeeding years, the amount necessary for the Philippine Blood Center shall
35 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

36
37 *Sec. 10. Trust Fund.* – A separate trust fund shall be maintained by the PBC for cash
38 donations and can be utilized by the PBC upon submission to the Department of Health
39 the proposal for its utilization but shall not be used for Personal Services.

40
41 *Sec. 11. Annual Report.* – The PBC shall submit an annual report to the Department of
42 Health, the Office of the President, the Senate of the Philippines and the House of
43 Representatives on its performance and accomplishments.

44
45 *Sec. 12. Transitory Provision.* – The existing Philippine Blood Center shall be given a
46 period of three (3) months from the date of implementation of this law to wind down its
47 activities.

48
49 Pertinent equipment, supplies and existing facility will be transferred to the new PBC
50 supported with appropriate inventory.

51
52 All personnel of the Philippine Blood Center shall be transferred to the new PBC subject
53 to their qualification and availment of plantilla positions under the new PBC approved
54 OSSP.

55
56 Those affected by this law shall be provided with the appropriate benefits provided
57 under existing laws.

1
2 The Department of Health shall appoint in transition the officers and staff of the new
3 PBC while complying with the OSSP for continuity of health services to the public.
4

5 Sec. 13. *Implementing Guidelines.* – The Department of Health shall draft the
6 implementing guidelines in consultation with various relevant stakeholders within thirty
7 days (30) from the approval of this Act.
8

9 Sec. 14. *Separability Clause.*

10 Sec. 15. *Repealing Clause.*

11
12
13 Sec. 16. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication
14 in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.