



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 503



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
FURTHER PROMOTING ORGAN DONATION AFTER DEATH FOR SPECIFIED
PURPOSES BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7170 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE ORGAN DONATION ACT OF 1991

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, many Filipino families continue to face the painful reality of watching their loved ones struggle with organ failure while waiting for a transplant. For these patients, each day that passes without a donor is a step closer to losing their fight for survival. While organ transplantation can save lives, the shortage of available donors has made access to this life-saving treatment extremely difficult for most Filipinos.

In February 2024, the Department of Health appealed to the public to consider organ donation. The agency highlighted the growing number of patients in need of transplants. According to a report by GMA News, almost 300 individuals were on the transplant waiting list, most of whom were in need of kidney replacements. Chronic Kidney Disease remains one of the leading causes of death in the country. The NKTl estimates that approximately 2.3 million Filipinos are currently living with this illness.

These figures show the growing demand for organ donations in the country. Although awareness efforts have increased, the number of actual donors continues to fall short. Many patients do not make it in time to receive the transplant they need.

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen the promotion of organ donation after death. Through this measure, we aim to give hope to Filipino patients and families and build a healthcare system that makes life-saving treatments more accessible to those in need.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CRISPIN D. REMULLA', written in a cursive style.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **503**

Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
FURTHER PROMOTING ORGAN DONATION AFTER DEATH FOR SPECIFIED
PURPOSES BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7170 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE ORGAN DONATION ACT OF 1991

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7170 or the Organ Donation Act of
2 1991 shall be amended to read as follows:

3 **"SECTION 7. *Duty of Hospitals.*** – A hospital authorized to
4 receive organ donations or to conduct transplantation shall train
5 qualified personnel and their staff to handle the task of introducing the
6 organ donation program in a humane and delicate manner to the
7 relatives of the donor-decedent enumerated in Section 4 hereof. The
8 hospital shall accomplish the necessary form or document as proof of
9 compliance with the above requirement.

10 **"HOSPITALS SHALL ALSO BE MANDATED TO**
11 **INCORPORATE IN THEIR ADMISSION FORMS A QUERY ON**
12 **WHETHER OR NOT THE INDIVIDUAL ACCESSING HEALTH CARE**
13 **SERVICES IS AN ORGAN DONOR AND IF HE/SHE IS WILLING**
14 **TO BE AN ORGAN DONOR WHICH SHALL FORM PART OF THE**
15 **HOSPITAL'S DATABASE."**

16 **SEC. 2.** Section 15 of Republic Act No. 7170 is further amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **"SECTION 15. *Information Drive.* – In order that the public will**
3 **obtain the maximum benefits from this Act, the Department of Health, in cooperation**
4 **with HEALTH CARE institutions, such as the National Kidney AND**
5 **TRANSPLANT Institute, PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER, LUNG CENTER OF**
6 **THE PHILIPPINES and civic and non-government health organizations**
7 **INVOLVED IN THE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION OF HUMAN**
8 **ORGANS, PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY, and other [health-related]**
9 **RELEVANT GOVERNMENT agencies[~~—involved in the donation and~~**
10 **~~transplantation of human organs;~~] shall undertake [a] public information programS**
11 **AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF**
12 **ORGAN DONATION**

13 The Secretary of Health shall endeavor to persuade all health professionals, both
14 government and private, to make an appeal for human organ donation.

15 **PUBLIC HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS SHALL ALSO BE**
16 **MANDATED TO ESTABLISH MANNED AREAS WITHIN THEIR PREMISES**
17 **THAT ARE EASILY SEEN AND ACCESSED BY THE PUBLIC FOR THE**
18 **PURPOSES OF ACQUIRING ORGAN DONOR CARDS AND LEARNING**
19 **MORE ABOUT ORGAN DONATION."**

20 **SEC. 3.** A new section is hereby inserted after Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7170 to
21 read as follows:

22 **"SEC. 15. ETHICAL OVERSIGHT AND SAFEGUARDS – TO ENSURE**
23 **TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND THE HIGHEST ETHICAL**
24 **STANDARDS IN THE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION OF HUMAN**
25 **ORGANS, AN ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION ETHICS BOARD**
26 **SHALL BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.**

27 **THE BOARD SHALL PERFORM THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:**

28 **(A) FORMULATE AND REGULARLY UPDATE ETHICAL GUIDELINES TO**
29 **GOVERN THE PROCUREMENT, DONATION, AND**
30 **TRANSPLANTATION OF HUMAN ORGANS, ALIGNED WITH**
31 **NATIONAL LAWS AND INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED ETHICAL**
32 **STANDARDS;**

33 **(B) MONITOR AND REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ORGAN**
34 **DONATION PROTOCOLS TO ENSURE THAT CONSENT IS GIVEN**

1 **FREELY AND WITHOUT COERCION OR FINANCIAL**
2 **CONSIDERATION;**

3 **(C) INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AND REPORTS OF UNETHICAL**
4 **CONDUCT, COMMERCIAL TRADING, OR TRAFFICKING RELATED**
5 **TO ORGAN PROCUREMENT TRANSPLANTATION;**

6 **(D) RECOMMEND SANCTIONS OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**
7 **AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS, OR ENTITIES FOUND IN**
8 **VIOLATION OF THIS ACT OR ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND**
9 **REGULATIONS; AND**

10 **(E) CONDUCT CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS**
11 **FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ON ETHICAL PRACTICES IN ORGAN**
12 **DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION.”**

13 **SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
14 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain
15 in full force and effect.

16 **SEC.4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and
17 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
18 accordingly.

19 **SEC.5. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,