

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2879**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR DIABETES AND
ENDOCRINOLOGY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Diabetes ranks fourth among the leading causes of death among Filipinos.¹ With 63 million people with diabetes², it is feared that the Philippines is becoming the “Diabetes hotspot” of the world. Worse, Filipinos diagnosed with diabetes are getting younger as children as young as five years old have been diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes.

However prevalent, the growing cases of diabetes in the country can be reversed and can be prevented through simple lifestyle measures. Furthermore, Diabetes is treatable, can be controlled and managed to prevent complications by increasing access to diagnosis, self-management education, and affordable treatment.

Diabetes care, prevention and cure should be a priority concern of the government because diabetes and other endocrine diseases take a huge toll on our human resources. As the 1987 Constitution puts it, it is the duty of the state to secure the well-being of the people by providing them specialized health services.

It is thus imperative to address this growing concern and strengthen our public health systems by establishing a specialized center for diabetes and endocrinology – a specialized institution similar to the wisdom behind the Philippine Heart Center, the Lung Center of the Philippines, and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute.

¹ Access to Insulin and Diabetes Care in the Philippines, The Lancet. 2021

² International Diabetes Federation, 2019

This bill seeks to provide a holistic approach in preventing and beating diabetes through the establishment of the Philippine Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology. The Center shall ensure the provision of medical services and other intervention methods (education, research, etc.) to Filipinos who are afflicted with diabetes.

Efforts to prevent and treat diabetes will be important in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.”

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PM VARGAS', is positioned above the printed name.

REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them by providing specialized health services and research, education, and training facility responsive to the country’s health needs and problems.

Hence, it is the primary concern of the government to assist and provide material and financial assistance in the establishment of a specialty hospital for Filipinos suffering from diabetes and promote diabetes care, prevention, and cure all over the country.

SECTION 3. *Creation of the Philippine Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology.* – There is hereby created a body corporate to be known as the Philippine Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology (PCDE), under the Department of Health (DOH), which shall serve as the lead tertiary-level care center in the screening, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diabetes.

The PCDE shall have its principal office in Metro Manila, and may have such regional offices, hospitals, clinics, or subsidiaries in Visayas and Mindanao and other areas in the Philippine as it may deem proper and necessary.

SECTION 4. *Purpose and Objectives.* The PCDE shall have the following purpose and objectives:

- (a) To construct, establish, equip, maintain, administer and operate such integrated medical institution or institutions which shall provide an organized system of care, comprehensive and optimal treatment for patients with diabetes and other endocrine problems;
- (b) To conduct nationwide screening and diagnosis of diabetes, obesity and the components of the metabolic syndrome;
- (c) To promote, encourage and engage in medical and scientific research on the prevention and treatment of diabetes and other endocrine diseases and gather, compile, and publish the findings of such researches for public dissemination;
- (d) To encourage, undertake and assist conferences, fora, conventions, seminars, workshops and training programs for physicians, nurses, health officers, medical technologists, social workers and medical and technical personnel on the practical and scientific implementation of health care services to diabetic patients;
- (e) To assist universities, hospitals and research institutions in their studies on diabetes and other endocrine diseases and other related fields, to encourage and grant scholarships for advanced training and specialization in medical care and management in diabetes and related fields and to support finance educational programs of value to public health;
- (f) To encourage the formation of other organizations at the national provincial, city and/or local levels, and to coordinate the various efforts and activities of such organizations for the purpose of achieving a more effective approach to the common problem relative to the purposes and objectives enumerated herein; and
- (g) To encourage telemedicine by establishing networks through internet facilities to link physicians at the local level or barrio doctors to specialists who can provide inputs to care of diabetic patients, especially in underserved areas.

SECTION 5. Powers and Functions. – For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above-enumerated purposes and objectives, the PCDE is a body corporate acting through its Board of Trustees, shall have the following powers and functions in addition to those provided for in the other sections of this Act:

- (a) To acquire, own, hold, use, lease, grant, mortgage, pledge, sell, assign, convey, transfer, exchange, dispose or otherwise deal with, real and/or personal properties of every kind and nature, including shares of stock, bonds, debentures, notes, securities and other evidences of indebtedness or obligations of other corporations, whether domestic or foreign, and whether government or private;
- (b) To solicit and receive donations, endowments and funds in the form of contributions, whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors;
- (c) To award, enter into, make, execute, perform and carry out domestic or foreign contracts of whatever kind and nature;
- (d) To open accounts in banks and other financial institutions, and to disburse such funds or invest the same as the Board may direct to accomplish or advance the purposes or interest of the PCDE, and to obtain loans, borrow funds and/or arrange financing or credit assistance of whatever kind and nature from all sources, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private.
- (e) To levy, assess and collect such fees, charges and assessments as may be necessary or proper to support, finance and maintain its operations;
- (f) To invite diabetes specialists and similar experts in the various medical fields to train the personnel or trainees or residents of the PCDE and to also support the trainings, seminars, conferences and conventions of its medical personnel in research and medical institutes or universities, be it local or international as the Board may deem necessary and in line with the principles of the Philippines Qualifications Framework (PQF), to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the PCDE;
- (g) To adopt and use a corporate seal;
- (h) To sue and be sued in its corporate name;

- (i) To adopt its by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with law of the provisions hereof to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the PCDE; and
- (j) To exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary, related or incidental or to carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act.

SECTION 6. *The Board of Trustees; Composition; Term and Compensation.* - The PCDE shall be governed, and its activities and properties shall be directed, controlled and managed, by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of a Chairperson and six (6) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

At least one (1) member shall come from the Philippine Society of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism (PSEM) and at least one (1) from the academe.

The Chairman of the PCDE shall be appointed from among the members of the Board.

Except the President of the PCDE, the members of the Board shall serve for a term of three (3) years, with a right to hold-over until their respective successors shall have been duly appointed and qualified. The President of the Philippines may, however, remove any member of the Board for cause. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Board, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

Except the President of the PCDE, each member of the Board shall receive compensation in accordance with current standards set by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and as may be determined by the Department of Health (DOH).

SECTION 7. *Power and Functions of the Board.* – The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To formulate policies, guidelines and programs to effectively implement and carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act;

- (b) To prescribe, review and revise the amount of the fees, charges, and assessments levied and collected for the support and maintenance of the operations of the PCDE;
- (c) To control the management, operation and administration of PCDE;
- (d) To promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary or proper for the effective exercise of power and functions as well as the discharge of the duties, responsibilities of the PCDE, its officers and employees;
- (e) To authorize such expenditures of the PCDE as may be necessary or proper for the effective management, operation and administration of the PCDE;
- (f) To adopt the annual and supplemental budget of receipts and expenditures of the PCDE;
- (g) To appoint, remove, suspend or otherwise discipline the Executive Vice-President and other officers of the PCDE occupying executive and senior management positions;

SECTION 8. *Officers of the PCDE.* The Board shall determine the officers of the PCDE who shall be appointed by the President of the PCDE subject to confirmation by the Board. The PCDE may have an Executive Vice-President and such Vice-Presidents and Assistant Vice-Presidents as may be required for the effective operation of the PCDE.

SECTION 9. *The President; Term of Office and Remuneration.* The President of the PCDE shall be appointed by, and shall serve at the pleasure of the President of the Philippines. The salary of the President of the PCDE shall be fixed by the Board, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 10. *Powers and Duties of the President.* The President of the PCDE shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the PCDE. He shall exercise the following powers and duties.

- (a) To execute the policies, guidelines and programs approved by the board, and to be responsible for the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;

- (b) To submit for the consideration and approval of the Board proposed measures, policies, guidelines and programs as he may deem necessary or proper for the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;
- (c) To direct and supervise the management, operation and administration of the PCDE, and, for this purpose, he/she may delegate any or some of his/her administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the PCDE;
- (d) To execute, on behalf of the PCDE, all contracts and agreements which the PCDE may enter into, and to execute, accomplish and deliver any and all documents relative to such contracts and agreements;
- (e) To represent the PCDE in all dealing with other offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the Government, and all other persons or entities, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private;
- (f) To appoint, promote, transfer, remove, suspend or otherwise discipline the officers and employees of the PCDE, except those appointed by the Board;
- (g) To exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed upon him by the Board.

SECTION 11. *Assistance from the Government.* – The PCDE may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, local government units, and state universities and colleges for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of the purposes and objectives of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Authority of the President in Emergencies.* – In case of emergencies which require immediate action by the Board, and there is no sufficient time to call a meeting thereof, the President of the PCDE, with the concurrence of any three (3) other members of the Board, may decide on any matter or take any action within the authority of the Board itself.

SECTION 13. *Donations to the PCDE.* – The PCDE is hereby authorized to solicit and receive donations, grants, contributions, gifts or endowments from all sources whether foreign or domestic, and whether government or private,

without the need of securing a permit, approval or registration from any government agency.

SECTION 14. *Exemption from Fees, Duties and Taxes.* – The PCDE is hereby declared exempt from all income and all other internal revenue taxes, tariff and customs duties and all other kinds of taxes, fees, charges and assessments levied by the Government and its political subdivisions agencies and instrumentalities. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all donations, grants, contributions, gifts or endowments which may be made by entities or persons to the PCDE shall be exempt from income and gift taxes, and the same shall be further deductible in full for purposes of computing the maximum amount deductible under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SECTION 15. *Appropriations.* – The amount of Ten Billion Pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to defray the initial operational expenses of the PCDE. Thereafter, the necessary amount to support the continued operation and maintenance of the PCDE shall be included in the General Appropriation Act.

SECTION 16. *Annual Report.* – The PCDE, through its President, shall render to the President and both houses of Congress annual reports on its accomplishments and activities.

SECTION 17. *Applicability of the Corporation Law.* The provisions of the general corporation law, insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and with the purposes and objectives for which the PCDE is formed, shall apply to the PCDE.

SECTION 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the DOH, the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and other stakeholders such as the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) and the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (PSEM), shall within sixty (60) days from the date of the effectivity of this Act, promulgate and publish the rules and regulations for the effective and faithful implementation of this Act.

SECTION 19. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 20. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 21. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,