

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3085



Introduced by Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For decades, eye diseases have been a priority concern because of the gradual increase in cases being treated in various eye clinics and hospitals. This increase is attributed to an aging population, improper eye care, and complications from other diseases, environmental factors, accidents and other related factors.

Yet, the more common eye diseases are, to a great extent, preventable and curable with early and adequate medical care, and prompt and intensive prevention and health education programs.

Based on the latest data from the National Council on Disability Affairs, 11% of the total registered disabilities, or 251,302 individuals have visual disability.¹

Hence, there is an urgent need to consolidate and reinforce existing programs, strategies, and efforts aimed at preventing, treating, and rehabilitating people affected by eye diseases. Additionally, there is a need to undertake research and training on the cure and prevention of eye diseases through the National Eye Center, which will house and nurture these and related activities, and provide tertiary-level care for more difficult and problematic cases.

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


WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA
1st District, Quezon

¹ National Council on Disability Affairs (<https://ncda.gov.ph/>). July 15, 2025

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**AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL EYE CENTER
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION. 1. There is hereby created a National Eye Center which is a quasi-government institution attached to the Office of the President.

SEC. 2. The Center shall have its principal office in Metro Manila, and may have such branch offices, hospitals, clinics or subsidiaries in other areas in the Philippines as it may deem proper and necessary.

SEC. 3. The Center shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- (a) To specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and/or relief of eye and allied diseases;
- (b) To promote medical and scientific research relative to the prevention and treatment of eye and allied diseases, and to encourage planning, invention and development of artificial means of eye support and transplantation;
- (c) To conduct fact finding investigations on eye diseases, and related field throughout the country or elsewhere, and to report, publish and disseminate information on eye and allied diseases;
- (d) To finance, sponsor, hold or participate in congresses, conventions, conferences, seminars, work-shops and training programs on eye diseases and/or related field in the Philippines or abroad; and
- (e) To stimulate the formation of other organizations on the national, provincial, city and/or local levels, and to coordinate the various efforts and activities of such organization for the purpose of achieving a more effective approach to the common problem relative to the purposes and objectives enumerated herein.

37 **SEC. 4.** For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above enumerated purposes
38 and objectives, the Center as a body corporate acting through its Board of
39 Trustees, shall have the following powers and functions:
40

- 41 (a) To adopt and use a corporate seal;
- 42
- 43 (b) To sue and be sued in its corporate name;
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- 45 (c) To adopt its by-laws, rules and regulations as it may deem proper and
46 necessary for implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;
- 47
- 48 (d) To succeed by its corporate name, and to acquire and possess
49 properties, rights and interests of whatever kind and nature, and
50 mortgage, pledge, alienate, encumber or otherwise dispose of the
51 same;
- 52
- 53 (e) To award, enter into, make, execute, perform and carry out domestic or
54 foreign contracts of whatever kind and nature;
- 55
- 56 (f) To invest in, and purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease,
57 grant, mortgage, pledge, sell, assign, convey, transfer, exchange or
58 otherwise deal with, real and/or personal properties of every kind and
59 nature, including shares of stock, bonds, notes, securities and other
60 evidences of indebtedness or obligations of other corporations, whether
61 domestic or foreign, and whether government or private;
- 62
- 63 (g) To obtain loans, borrow funds and/or arrange financing or credit assistance
64 of whatever kind and nature from all sources, whether domestic or foreign
65 and whether government or private, and to mortgage, pledge or otherwise
66 encumber any of its properties and assets for the purpose of securing or
67 guaranteeing the performance or fulfillment of any obligation it may
68 undertake for itself or for other entities in which it may be interested;
- 69
- 70 (h) To levy, assess and collect such fees, charges and assessments as may be
71 necessary or proper to support, finance and maintain its operations; and
- 72
- 73 (i) To exercise such other powers and functions as may be incidental or
74 necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act.
- 75

76 **SEC. 5.** The Center shall be governed, and its activities and properties shall be
77 directed, controlled and managed, by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as
78 the Board, which shall be composed of a Chairman and ten (10) members, all of
79 whom shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines. The Chief Executive
80 Officer of the Center, who shall be appointed from among the members of the Board
81 in accordance hereof, shall be the ex-officio Vice-Chairman of the Board.

82
83 The members of the Board shall serve for a term of three (3) years, with a right to
84 hold-over until their respective successors shall have been duly appointed and
85 qualified. The President of the Philippines may, however, remove any member of the
86 Board for cause. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Board, the person

87 appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member
88 replaced.

89
90 **SEC. 6.** The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

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

94
95 (b) To prescribe, review and revise the amount of the fees, charges, and
96 assessments levied and collected for the support and maintenance of
97 the operations of the Center;

98
99 (c) To control the management, operation and administration of the Center;

100
101 (d) To promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary or proper for
102 the effective exercise of power and functions as well as the discharge of the
103 duties, responsibilities of the Center, its officers and employees;

104
105 (e) To authorize such expenditures of the Center as may be necessary or
106 proper for the effective management, operation and administration of the
107 Center;

108
109 (f) To determine and organize the Center's organizational and
110 administrative structure or pattern, and to establish and fix, review,
111 revise and adjust the appropriate compensation scheme of the
112 officers and employees of the center with reasonable allowances,
113 bonuses and other incentives;

114
115 (f) To adopt the annual and supplemental budget of receipts and
116 expenditures of the Center;

117
118 (g) To appoint, remove, suspend or otherwise discipline officers of the
119 center occupying executive and senior management positions;

120
121 (h) To exercise all the general powers necessary or incidental to the attainment of
122 the purposes and objectives of this Act; and

123 (i) To do any and all acts as may be necessary or proper for the
124 attainment of the powers and functions of the Center.

125 **SEC. 7.** The Center may call upon any Department, Bureau, Office, Agency or
126 instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned or controlled
127 corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of the purposes and
128 objectives of this Act;

129
130 **SEC. 8.** The Center is hereby authorized to solicit and receive donations, grants,
131 contributions, gifts or endowments from all sources whether foreign or domestic, and
132 whether government or private, without the need of securing a permit, approval or
133 registration from any government agency;

135 **SEC. 9.** The books and accounts of the Center shall be under the charge of a
136 Resident Auditor, subject to periodic auditing by the Chairman of the Commission on
137 Audit, or his duly authorized representative;

138
139 **SEC. 10.** The Center and its officers and employees shall be covered by the Civil
140 Service Law, rules and regulations;

141
142 **SEC 11.** The Center shall render to the President of the Philippines an annual report
143 on its operations and accomplishments;

144
145 **SEC. 12.** The provisions of the general corporation law, insofar as they are not
146 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act of with the purposes and objectives for
147 which the Center is formed, shall apply to the Center;

148
149 **SEC. 13.** If for any reason, the Center is dissolved, its properties and assets shall
150 revert to the National Government for disposition in accordance with law;

151
152 **SEC. 14.** Appropriation - The amount of One Hundred million pesos
153 (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the necessary initial operating
154 expenses and maintenance of the National Eye Center. Thereafter, such sum as
155 maybe necessary for the continued operation of the Center shall be included in the
156 annual General Appropriations Act.

157
158 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause** - If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act
159 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect,
160 invalidate or impair any other part of this Act.

161
162 **SEC. 16. Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum
163 orders, and other administrative issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent
164 with the provisions of this Act, are hereby modified, superseded or repealed
165 accordingly.

166
167 **SEC. 17. Effectivity-** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
168 publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general circulation in
169 the Philippines.

Approved,