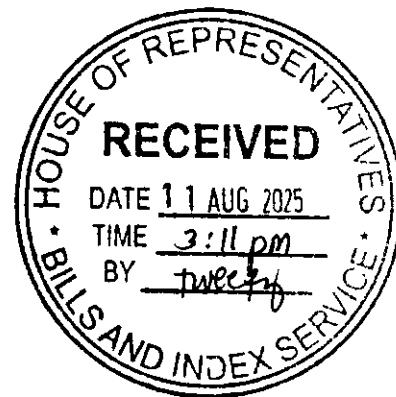


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3459



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
AND JOCELYN P. TULFO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING REGIONAL BRANCHES OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS SUCH AS THE
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER, NATIONAL KIDNEY AND TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE,
LUNG CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER
AND PHILIPPINE CANCER CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. In so doing, the Constitution also provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. The framers of the 1987 Constitution also specifically stated that there shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

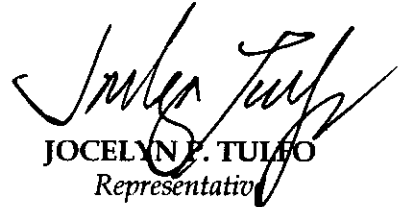
However, it must be noted that at least four specialty hospitals attached to the Department of Health (DOH), namely the (1) Lung Center of the Philippines, (2) Philippine Health Center, (3) National Kidney Transplant Institute, and (4) Philippine Children's Medical Center, are all located in Quezon City, and as of 2023, more than one third of the thirty-seven (37) Level 3 Hospitals directly supervised and controlled by the DOH are situated in Metro Manila. Filipinos from farther areas and regions are burdened by additional costs, such as transportation expenses and accommodations, so that they may avail and receive treatment in these specialty and tertiary level hospitals.

In order to bring specialty care services closer to the people, this Representation provides the decentralization of the delivery of healthcare services by committing to the creation of regional specialty hospitals to ensure that quality health care is delivered to every Filipino in the country.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
Representative
2nd District of Quezon City



JOCELYN P. TULFO
Representative
ACT-CIS Partylist

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OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Regional Specialty Hospitals
2 Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.*** – It shall be the policy of the State to provide access to
5 affordable and quality healthcare services to Filipinos, including the provision of specialty
6 hospitals in the different regions of the country pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the 1987
7 Constitution, which provides that “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the
8 people and instill health consciousness among them”.

9
10 **SEC. 3. *Establishment of Regional Specialty Hospitals.*** – There shall be branches of the
11 Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the
12 Philippines, Philippine Children's and Medical Center, and Philippine Cancer Center to be
13 established in the different regions of the country. Within three (3) years upon the enactment of
14 this Act, there shall be at least one (1) specialty hospital from the abovementioned specialty
15 hospitals in Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Southern
16 Mindanao. The Department of Health shall determine the specialty hospital to be established in
17 the different regions, taking into consideration the prevalent illnesses in the area.

18
19 **SEC. 4. *National Government Share.*** – The National Government shall constitute the
20 necessary land, building, equipment, and facilities, to the regional branches of the specialty
21 hospital, and shall pay such obligations for real, personal, and mixed properties arising from such
22 undertaking under a deferred payment arrangement within five (5) years, at a preferred rate of
23 interest.

1
2 **SEC. 5. *Property of the Regional Specialty Hospital.*** – The property of the Regional
3 Specialty Hospital shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other type of property, now
4 owned or reserved for, or may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to,
5 the Regional Branch of the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute,
6 Lung Center of the Philippines. Philippine Children’s Medical Center Visayas and Philippine
7 Cancer Center as applicable, by the Philippine Government, its branches and instrumentalities,
8 any foreign government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, alien or
9 domestic, in order to carry out its purpose and objectives as set forth herein.

10
11 **SEC. 6. *Purposes and Objectives.*** – The purposes and objectives of the Regional Specialty
12 Hospital are:
13
14

- 15 a. To construct, establish, operate and maintain regional branches of specialty hospitals
16 for the public welfare;
 - 17 b. To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research on the prevention of heart,
18 kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary diseases and care and/or treatment of such
19 diseases and related activities, including sponsorship and conduct of relevant
20 congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;
 - 21 c. To stimulate and/or underwrite scientific researches on the biological, demographic,
22 social, economic, eugenic, physiological aspects of heart, kidney, liver, cancer and
23 pulmonary disorders and abnormalities and its control; and gather, compile, and
24 publish the findings of such researches for public dissemination;
 - 25 d. To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information
26 on the prevention, treatment and control of heart, kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary
27 diseases, to arouse, enhance and develop public interest on such diseases and arouse
28 consciousness or awareness on general health and physical fitness;
 - 29 e. To encourage and/or undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical
30 technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct
31 and implementation of heart, kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary services, and
32 related activities;
 - 33 f. To assists universities, hospitals and research institutions in their studies of heart,
34 kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary anomalies, to encourage advanced training on
35 matters of, or affecting the heart, kidney, liver, cancer and lungs, and related fields
36 and to support educational programs of value to general health;
 - 37 g. To encourage the formation of other organization on the national, provincial, city,
38 municipal or barangay level and to coordinate their various efforts and activities for
39 the purpose of achieving a more effective programmatic approach on the common
40 problems relatives to the objectives herein enumerated; and
 - 41 h. To extend medical and heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary services to the
42 general public, to help prevent, relieve or alleviate the innumerable heart, kidney,
43 liver, cancer, and pulmonary afflictions and maladies of the people especially the poor
44 and less fortunate in life, without regard to race, creed, color or political belief.
- 45
46

1 **SEC. 7. *Governing Board.*** – The Governing Board of the Regional Specialty Hospital shall
2 be the Governing Board of their respective mother units; *Provided*, That the medical director of
3 chief of hospital of the Regional Branch shall be present or invited to the Board meeting whenever
4 matters concerning his/her Regional Branch are in the agenda or for discussion of the Board.

5
6 **SEC. 8. *Tax Exemptions and Privileges.*** – All existing tax exemptions and privileges of the
7 Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the
8 Philippines, Philippine Children’s Hospital, and Philippine Cancer Center shall be availed of by
9 their Regional Branches.

10
11 **SEC. 9. *Transportation and Lodging Subsidy for Medical Specialists and Experts.*** – To
12 encourage the assignment and/or temporary practice of medical specialists and experts in the
13 Regional Branches of Specialty Hospitals, especially during the initial stage of their establishment,
14 the Regional Branches are allowed to provide transportation and lodging subsidy and other
15 necessary subsidies over and above of their salary, professional fee and other emoluments.

16
17 **SEC. 10. *Assistance From Government Offices.*** – The Regional Specialty Hospital, may
18 call upon any Department, Bureau, Office, agency or instrumentality of the government,
19 including government-owned or controlled corporations, particularly the Philippine Charity
20 Sweepstakes Office, for such assistance it may need in the pursuit of its purpose and objectives.

21
22 **SEC. 11. *Government Subsidy and Contributions.*** – The amount of Five Billion Pesos
23 (PhP5,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as contribution of the National Government for
24 their initial establishment, operations, and maintenance of the Regional Specialty Hospitals for
25 the year 2023. Thereafter, the amount necessary to ensure the continued operations and
26 maintenance of the Regional Specialty Hospitals shall be duly provided for, appropriated, and
27 released from the General Appropriations Act. The respective funds therefrom shall be
28 administered by the respective Board of each specialty hospital.

29
30 **SEC. 12. *Annual Report.*** – Each Regional Specialty Hospital shall render to their
31 respective mother units, the Department of Health, the President of the Philippines, and the
32 Congress of the Philippines, annual report of its activities, accomplishment, and
33 recommendations.

34
35 **SEC. 13. *Effect of Dissolution of the Regional Specialty Hospital.*** – If, for any reason, the
36 Regional Specialty Hospital is dissolved, its assets and properties remaining at the time of
37 dissolution, shall revert to the Philippine Government for disposition in accordance with law.

38
39 **SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of the Department of
40 Health, in consultation with the Medical Director or Chief of Hospital of the respective mother
41 unit of the Specialty Hospital, shall issue such rules, regulations, and other issuances as may be
42 necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

43
44 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** – Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared
45 unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long
46 as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

1 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or
2 parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

3
4 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
5 publication in the official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6
7 Approved,