

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3872**



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is undergoing a profound demographic transformation, rapidly evolving into an aging society. Projections indicate that by 2030, individuals aged 60 and above will constitute 10% of the total population. This demographic shift is particularly concerning given a notable decline in healthy life expectancy, suggesting that while Filipinos may live longer, a greater portion of their later years is spent in poor health.

The existing healthcare infrastructure is demonstrably unprepared to address the complex, often multi-morbid health needs of this growing older population, suffering from a severe deficit of specialized geriatric professionals, fragmented care delivery, and pervasive resource limitations.

In response to this pressing national challenge, the establishment of a National Geriatric Health and Research Institute (NGHRI) and a network of Regional Geriatric Specialty Centers (RGSCs) within Department of Health (DOH)-retained hospitals emerges as a critical and proactive solution. This strategic investment is poised to drive specialized research, foster the development of evidence-based policies, ensure the provision of advanced and accessible geriatric care, cultivate a competent and dedicated healthcare workforce, and ultimately yield substantial economic and societal advantages by promoting healthy and productive aging. Urgent and coordinated action is therefore paramount to realize this vision and secure a healthier, more dignified future for all older Filipinos.

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


REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL GERIATRIC HEALTH AND
RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
CREATING REGIONAL GERIATRIC SPECIALTY CENTERS IN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-RETAINED HOSPITALS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "National Geriatric Health and Research Institute Act of 2025."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of all citizens and instill health consciousness among them. The State recognizes the growing demographic of the elderly and the unique health challenges they face.

It is therefore imperative to establish a dedicated institution that will lead the nation's efforts in geriatric healthcare, research, and education to ensure that our senior citizens receive the quality and compassionate care they deserve.

Sec. 3. Establishment of the National Geriatric Health and Research Institute. - There is hereby created the National Geriatric Health and Research Institute (NGHRI), hereinafter referred to as the "Institute," which shall be attached to the Department of Health (DOH). The Institute shall serve as the primary government agency for geriatric health, research, training, and policy formulation.

Sec. 4. Powers and Functions of the Institute. The Institute shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. To formulate and implement a national strategic plan for geriatric health and wellness.

- b. To conduct and promote research on the health and well-being of the elderly, including but not limited to diseases common among geriatrics, mental health, and social determinants of health.
- c. To develop and standardize geriatric health protocols, guidelines, and best practices for healthcare institutions across the country.
- d. To establish and maintain a national registry and database on geriatric health, chronic diseases, and other relevant data to inform policy and planning.
- e. To lead the training and education of medical professionals, caregivers, and health workers in the field of geriatrics.
- f. To provide technical assistance to regional geriatric specialty centers and other healthcare facilities on geriatric care.
- g. To collaborate with local and international organizations, universities, and research institutions to advance geriatric health knowledge and practice.
- h. To recommend policies and legislation to the DOH and other government agencies to improve the lives of senior citizens.
- i. To receive grants, donations, and endowments from local and international sources for the purpose of carrying out its functions, subject to existing laws and regulations.

Sec. 5. *Creation of Regional Geriatric Specialty Centers.* - Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall establish and operate at least one (1) Geriatric Specialty Center in a DOH-retained hospital in each of the country's major island groups (Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao). These centers shall serve as regional hubs for specialized geriatric care, training, and research. The DOH shall develop a phased plan for the expansion of these centers to all regions of the country.

Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The initial funding for the establishment and operation of the Institute and the initial regional centers shall be sourced from the national government.

Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,