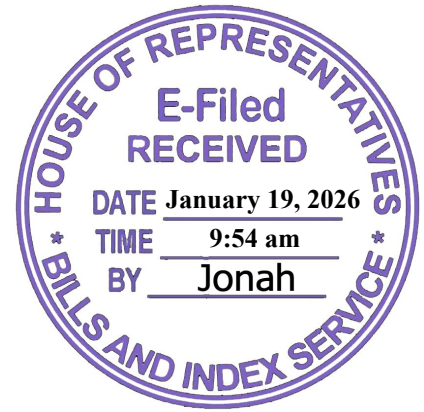


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7175



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to health is a fundamental principle enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. One of the most critical components of a functioning healthcare system is the availability of safe and adequate blood. While Republic Act No. 7719, otherwise known as the "National Blood Services Act of 1994," promoted voluntary blood donation and phased out commercial blood banks, the infrastructure for a centralized, state-of-the-art national blood center remains reliant on administrative issuances.

Currently, the Philippine Blood Center (PBC) operates under the Department of Health (DOH) but lacks the institutional permanence and autonomous budgetary mandate required to meet the growing national demand. This bill seeks to institutionalize the PBC as the national hub for blood services, providing it with a formal mandate to set standards, conduct advanced research, and oversee a network of Regional Blood Centers.

By providing a clear organizational structure and a dedicated appropriation of funds, this measure ensures that every Filipino has access to safe, affordable, and quality blood products, especially in times of emergency and medical necessity.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7175

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

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN
CRISIS SITUATION (AICS) PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), PROVIDING FOR ITS PERMANENT
FUNDING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted 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 "Philippine Blood
Center Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and
promote the right to health of the people. Toward this end, the State shall ensure
an adequate, safe, and equitable supply of blood and blood products through the
institutionalization of a national blood center that shall lead the National
Voluntary Blood Services Program (NVBSP).

SEC. 3. *Institutionalization of the Philippine Blood Center (PBC).* - The
Philippine Blood Center is hereby institutionalized as the lead agency for blood
services in the country, under the direct supervision and control of the
Department of Health (DOH). Its principal office shall be located in Metro Manila.

SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions.* - The PBC shall have the following powers
and functions:

1. Centralized Hub: Serve as the national repository and distribution center
for blood and blood components;
2. Standard Setting: Formulate and implement standards for blood
collection, testing, processing, and storage to be replicated nationwide;

3. Research and Development: Conduct scientific research on transfusion medicine and blood-related diseases;
4. Training: Serve as the national training center for health professionals and volunteers in blood banking and donor recruitment;
5. Quality Control: Ensure the safety of blood through advanced screening for transfusion-transmissible infections (TTIs); and
6. Network Management: Coordinate the operations of all Regional Blood Centers.

SEC. 5. *Regional Blood Centers (RBCs).* – There shall be established a Regional Blood Center in every region of the Philippines. These RBCs shall serve as local hubs for blood services and shall operate under the technical supervision of the PBC.

SEC. 6. *Non-Profit Operations* –The Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers will operate on a non-profit basis. However, they may charge blood service fees that do not exceed the maximum amount set by the Department of Health (DOH). These fees are limited to the necessary expenses incurred in the collection, processing, and testing of blood. The Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers will operate on a non-profit basis. However, they may charge blood service fees that do not exceed the maximum amount set by the Department of Health (DOH). These fees are limited to the necessary expenses incurred in the collection, processing, and testing of blood.

SEC. 7. *Organizational Structure.* – The PBC shall be headed by an Executive Director, to be appointed by the Secretary of Health. The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the PBC and its RBCs.

SEC. 8. *Non-Profit Operation and Service Fees.* – The PBC and RBCs shall operate on a non-profit basis. They may collect reasonable blood service fees, as prescribed by the DOH, solely to cover the costs of collection, processing, and testing. No person shall be denied blood due to inability to pay, subject to the medical social services guidelines of the DOH.

SEC. 9. *Tax Exemptions.* – All donations, grants, and contributions to the PBC shall be exempt from donor's tax and shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor for income tax purposes.

SEC. 10. *Establishment of a Trust Fund* – To support and enhance the operations of the Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers, a trust fund will be established. This fund will be generated from the retained income

derived from collected blood service fees, ensuring a sustainable financial foundation for these vital services.

SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DOH. Thereafter, the funding required for the continued operation of the PBC and RBCs shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,