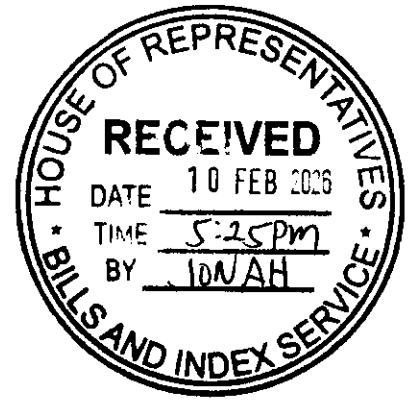


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7721

Introduced by Representative CIRIACO B. GATO, JR., M.D., FPSO-HNS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to health is a fundamental State obligation guaranteed under Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution. Central to this mandate is the provision of safe, adequate, and accessible blood and blood products, as well as the availability of appropriate diagnosis and treatment for individuals suffering from blood-related diseases.

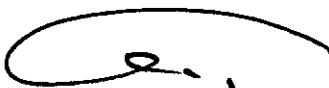
Despite the existence of Republic Act No. 7719 or the National Blood Services Act of 1994, which established the National Blood Services Network (NBSN) and promoted voluntary blood donation, significant gaps and challenges persist in the country's blood-services system such as insufficient and uneven blood supply across regions, with some areas chronically experiencing shortages that delay surgeries, childbirth interventions, trauma management, and treatment of chronic blood disorders; persistent dependence on replacement donors rather than a robust pool of voluntary donors; fragmented coordination among blood-service facilities, hospitals, LGUs, and private entities, resulting in inefficiencies in collection, storage, and distribution; limited specialized services for blood-disease management; the lack of a centralized data system to monitor supply, demand, safety, transfusion reactions, and blood-disease trends; and inadequate capacity during disasters or outbreaks.

The Philippine Health System, especially under the Universal Health Care (UHC) framework, emphasizes service integration, evidence-based planning, and equitable access to care. However, services for the diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management of blood-related diseases remain limited and unevenly distributed, with varying levels of capability among healthcare facilities. The current landscape of blood services also remains decentralized and often facility-driven, resulting in uneven availability of safe blood and blood products across regions.

This bill seeks to address these long-standing gaps through a clear functional integration of blood services and blood-disease care. It establishes the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center (PBDTC) as a government-owned and controlled specialty hospital that will serve as the national referral center for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management of blood diseases, while also providing advanced transfusion services, research, training, and data integration.

It also institutionalizes the Philippine Blood Center (PBC) as the national and central hub for blood collection, testing, processing, storage, distribution, training, quality assurance, hemovigilance, and coordination of Regional Blood Centers, consistent with Republic Act No. 7719.

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



CIRIACO B. GATO JR.

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7721

Introduced by Representative CIRIACO B. GATO, JR., M.D., FPSO-HNS

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE BLOOD SERVICES NETWORK
BY ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BLOOD DISEASE AND TRANSFUSION
CENTER, INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE BLOOD CENTER AND
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Sec. 1. **Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center Act of 2026.”

Sec. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall establish a Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center, which shall provide comprehensive care for patients with blood diseases, including transfusion services, in the interest of public welfare, and shall institutionalize the Philippine Blood Center and a nationwide network of Regional Blood Centers to ensure the availability, safety, and quality of blood, as well as the provision of comprehensive care for patients with blood-related diseases.

Sec. 3. **Definition of Terms.** -

a. Apheresis Facility — a blood service facility where blood is collected, a specific component is separated and retained, and the remainder is returned to the donor.

b. Blood — refers to the human blood for transfusion.

c. Blood Center — refers to a health facility authorized to collect, test, process, store, and distribute human blood and blood components pursuant to this Act, including the Philippine Blood Center and Regional Blood Centers.

d. Philippine Blood Center (PBC) — refers to the national and central hub of blood services in the country, institutionalized under this Act and under the direct supervision of the Department of Health.

e. Regional Blood Centers — refers to blood centers established and maintained by the regional offices of the Department of Health under the supervision of the Philippine Blood Center.

f. Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center (PBDTC) — refers to the government-owned and controlled specialty hospital established under this Act to provide comprehensive care for patients with blood diseases and transfusion services.

g. Blood Component — refers, but is not limited to, whole blood, red cells, granulocytes, plasma, platelets, cryoprecipitate, and cryosupernate prepared in the Blood Center.

h. Blood Disease — refers to a blood condition that involves problems with the red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, blood vessels, bone marrow, lymph nodes, spleen, or the proteins involved in bleeding and clotting (hemostasis and thrombosis).

i. Blood Product — refers to a therapeutic substance derived from whole blood or plasma.

j. Blood Transfusion — refers to the process of transferring blood or blood-based products from one person into the circulatory system of another.

k. Hematology — refers to the branch of medicine that is concerned with the study of blood, the blood-forming organs, and blood diseases.

l. Voluntary Blood Donor — refers to a donor who gives blood freely and voluntarily without any form of payment.

Sec. 4. Establishment of Facilities – The PBDTC is established as a government corporate entity located at the Lung Center of the Philippines Compound in Quezon City.

It shall provide specialized care for patients with blood diseases and blood-related conditions, including transfusion services; and serve as the national center for research, training, and education in hematology and transfusion medicine.

The PBC, created under RA No. 7719 and DOH Administrative Order No. 2005-0002, is institutionalized as the national and central hub of blood services under DOH, overseeing collection, testing, processing, storage, and distribution and providing standards and training to all Regional Blood Centers and other licensed blood service facilities.

Sec. 5. Regional Blood Centers - All regions of the Philippines shall have Regional Blood Centers which shall be established in all regions under the direct control and supervision of the PBC. The Regional Blood Centers shall be the local regional hub for regional blood services.

Sec. 6. Non-Profit Operations - The PBC and Regional Blood Centers shall operate on a non-profit basis: *Provided*, that they may collect blood service fees not greater than the maximum prescribed by the Department of Health, which shall be limited to the necessary expenses entailed in collecting, processing, and testing of blood. Blood shall be collected from healthy voluntary donors only.

Sec. 7. Purposes and Objectives. -

a) The PBC shall have the following purposes and objectives as the premier blood service facility of the Philippines:

1. Centrally recruit, motivate, and screen blood donors;
2. Centrally collect, test for transfusion-transmissible infections, process, store, issue, and transport blood and blood components for transfusion;
3. Perform special immunohematologic tests;
4. Provide information, educate, and counsel on transfusion-transmissible infections;
5. Create a database for blood donors in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012;
6. Conduct quality assurance and surveillance;
7. Establish a national hemovigilance system;
8. Conduct training and research in blood banking and related technologies and fields as basis for national policy-making;
9. Capacitate regional blood centers;
10. Administer to the resource stratification for national blood services in collaboration with regional blood centers; and
11. Perform other functions assigned by the Department of Health.

b) The PBDTC shall have the following purposes and objectives:

1. To construct, establish, operate and maintain a specialty hospital, with at least two hundred fifty (250) bed capacity, which shall offer comprehensive care for patients with blood diseases;
2. To establish and operate a blood transfusion center and a state-of-the-art hematology laboratory, including a molecular laboratory for public welfare;
3. To establish and operate a Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Program and donor registry;
4. To collect blood from qualified voluntary blood donors, and process whole blood into blood components;
5. To ensure the safety, as well as the adequate supply, of blood and blood products delivered to hospitals and other health facilities;
6. To promote, encourage and engage in medical and scientific research on the prevention and treatment of blood diseases, and on the proper operation of blood bank technology and blood transfusion services to ensure the safety of both blood donors and donees;
7. To gather, compile and publish the findings of its medical and scientific research;

8. To conduct studies and develop teaching programs, in collaboration with universities, hospitals and/or research institutions, on the prevention and treatment of blood diseases; encourage and grant scholarships for advanced training and specialization in hematology, and support educational programs of value to general public health;
9. To finance, sponsor, hold or participate in congresses, conventions, conferences, seminars, workshops and training programs on the prevention and treatment of blood diseases; and
10. To encourage and assist in the education and training of physicians, nurses, health officers, social workers, and medical and technical personnel in the practical and scientific implementation of services to patients with blood diseases.

Sec. 8. Powers and Functions of the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center

- a. To have the attribute of perpetual succession and shall be vested with the powers of a corporation;
- b. To adopt and use a corporate seal which shall be a matter of judicial notice;
- c. To enter into contracts with any person or entity, whether public or private, domestic or foreign;
- d. To acquire assets, real or personal, or any interest therein, and encumber or otherwise dispose the same, under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance, as it may deem proper and necessary in the conduct of its business;
- e. To invest its excess funds, subject to applicable laws, rules and regulations, in any activity related to the PBDTC, as well as in any bonds or securities issued and guaranteed by the Government of the Philippines;
- f. To collect reasonable fees from the public for its services;
- g. To solicit and accept any gifts, contributions, endowments, grants, bequests and devises of any kind of real or personal property which are necessary and proper for the attainment of the purpose of the hospital; and
- h. To perform such acts and exercise such functions as may be necessary and proper for the attainment of the purposes and objectives herein specified.

Sec. 9. Board of Trustees of the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center. – The affairs and business of the PBDTC shall be directed, its properties managed, and its corporate powers exercised, unless otherwise provided in this Charter, by its own Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of seven (7) members, as follows:

- a. The Secretary of the Department of Health as Chairman of the Board, or his duly authorized representative;
- b. The Department of Health Undersecretary in charge of supervising specialty hospitals;

- c. One (1) member from the private sector, preferably with experience in finance, administration or management;
- d. One (1) representative who is an expert in hematology;
- e. One (1) representative who is an expert in blood transfusion;
- f. One (1) representative from an NGO involved in health advocacy; and
- g. The Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center Executive Director.

The terms of office, manner of appointment of the trustees and other matters pertaining to the governance of the PBDTC shall be determined in accordance with the pertinent provisions of RA 10149, otherwise known as the "GOCC Governance Act of 2011".

Sec. 10. Powers and Functions of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center. -

- a. Set the policies and direction of the PBDTC to accomplish its mandate;
- b. Adopt a set of by-laws, rules, regulations, guidelines and procedures consistent with existing laws and the provisions hereof to govern the administration and operation of the PBDTC;
- c. Establish the organizational structure of the PBDTC, define the duties and responsibilities of its officials and employees, and adopt a compensation and benefit scheme, subject to the pertinent provisions of RA 10149;
- d. Establish and maintain professional and technical education systems for the sustained development of the necessary manpower to manage and operate its affairs and business;
- e. Authorize the expenditures of the PBDTC as may be necessary or proper for its efficient and effective management, operation and administration;
- f. Send the personnel of the PBDTC to research institutes, medical institutes or universities for advanced training or observation and to attend international or regional conventions, conferences, congresses or seminars as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the PBDTC;
- g. Enter into such agreements and arrangements with other medical or similar institutions, domestic or foreign, as it deems desirable toward promoting the purposes and objectives of the PBDTC
- h. Appoint, remove, suspend or otherwise discipline the Executive Director and other officers of the PBDTC occupying executive and senior management positions; and
- i. Undertake such other acts as may be necessary for or incidental to the accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the PBDTC.

Sec. 11. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern for the Philippine Blood Center and Regional Blood Centers. – The Department of Health shall craft staffing standards and create new positions as necessary to ensure the appropriate human resources for the operation of the PBC and Regional Blood Centers, subject to the approval of the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Budget and Management.

Sec. 12. Directors for the Philippine Blood Center and Regional Blood Centers. – The PBC and the Regional Blood Centers shall be led by a Director appointed by the President of the Philippines, upon recommendation by the Secretary of Health.

Sec. 13. Executive Director of the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center. - The PBDTC shall be headed by the Executive Director, whose rank and emoluments shall be approved by the Board, taking into account the prevailing practice in other specialty hospitals, and subject to the pertinent guidelines issued by the Governance Commission for GOCCs.

The Executive Director shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Direct and supervise the operations and administration of the PBDTC;
- b. Execute, administer, and implement the policies and measures approved by the Board;
- c. Prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Board, and submit for consideration of the Board such policies and measures as he/she believes necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act;
- d. Represent the PBDTC in all dealings, i.e., meetings, contracts, negotiations, etc., with all other offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the government and with all persons and other entities, domestic or foreign;
- e. Appoint, remove, suspend, or otherwise discipline all other officers and employees of the PBDTC; and
- f. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties provided in the by-laws and as vested to him/her by the Board.

Sec. 14. Annual Report. - The PBC shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, the Department of Health, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and the House Committee on Health, on its activities, accomplishments, and recommendations to better address and improve the safe supply of blood in the Philippines.

The PBDTC shall submit an annual report to the Department of Health, pursuant to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 10149.

Sec. 15. Indigent Program. - The Department of Health shall ensure that the PBDTC, the PBC, and the Regional Blood Centers adopt and implement programs for indigent patients needing blood, blood products, or treatment, aligned with the government's social service guidelines.

Sec. 16. Tax Exemptions and Other Privileges. - The provision of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding, all donations, grants, contributions, gifts, bequests, subsidies, or financial aid received by the PBDTC, the PBC, and the Regional Blood Centers shall be exempt from income tax, donor's tax, gift tax, and all other kinds of taxes, and shall be considered allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor in accordance with the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

The properties and income of the PBDTC shall likewise be exempt from all direct and indirect taxes on its income, properties, and operations, including all accruals on its income and investment earnings.

Sec. 17. Trust Fund and Income Retention. - The PBC shall retain income from collected blood service fees in a trust fund to be used exclusively for operations and capacity-building of the PBC and Regional Blood Centers.

The PBDTC shall retain and utilize income derived from its operations for the continuous improvement of its services and facilities, subject to government auditing rules and regulations. No amount from such income shall be used to augment the salaries and other compensation of personnel beyond amounts determined by the Governance Commission for GOCCs.

Sec. 18. Assistance from Government Agencies. - The PBDTC, the PBC, and the Regional Blood Centers may request assistance and cooperation from other government agencies, offices, and government-owned and controlled corporations.

Sec. 19. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

Sec. 20. Appropriations. - The amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (P850,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial establishment and operation of the PBDTC. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act, including the maintenance and other operating expenses of the PBC, shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Health.

For the succeeding years, the amount allocated for the PBC in the Department of Health budget shall be based on its strategic plan, in coordination with other stakeholders.

Sec. 21. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

Sec. 22. Repealing Clause. - All laws, acts, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 23. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,