

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7829



Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is experiencing a steady rise in its senior citizen population, bringing increased demand for specialized, accessible, and comprehensive healthcare services tailored to the unique needs of older persons. However, the country's healthcare system remains largely focused on general care, with limited facilities and programs dedicated specifically to geriatric medicine.

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Geriatric Center (PGC), a tertiary specialty hospital under the supervision of the Department of Health, which will serve as the country's lead institution for geriatric care, training, and research. It also mandates the creation of regional geriatric centers within five years to expand access to specialized services nationwide, and requires the development of a National Geriatric Health Service Delivery Plan to ensure a coordinated and sustainable approach.

The measure provides for appropriate staffing and organizational structure, subject to evaluation by the Department of Budget and Management and in accordance with civil service standards of the Civil Service Commission, in coordination with the National Commission of Senior Citizens. It likewise appropriates initial funding to support the establishment and operations of the PGC.

By strengthening geriatric healthcare infrastructure and planning, this bill affirms the State's commitment to protect the health, dignity, and well-being of senior citizens and to ensure they receive quality and compassionate care.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this legislative measure is earnestly sought


JOEL R. CHUA

Representative, 3rd District, Manila

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7829

Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE GERIATRIC CENTER AND REGIONAL
GERIATRIC CENTERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 Geriatric Center Act."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of senior citizens, recognizing their vital role in society and the need to ensure their dignity and well-being.

To this end, the State shall adopt a comprehensive, integrated, and sustainable approach to geriatric healthcare development. The State shall ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of quality and age-appropriate health services.

Section 3. *Philippine Geriatric Center and Regional Geriatric Centers.* - There shall be established a tertiary specialty hospital for geriatric care under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), to be known as the Philippine Geriatric Center (PGC).

The Department of Health (DOH) shall likewise establish regional geriatric centers within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act.

The site of the Philippine Geriatric Center and Regional Geriatric Centers shall be determined by the Secretary of the Department of Health in coordination with appropriate government agencies.

Section 4. *National Geriatric Health Service Delivery Plan.* - The Department of Health (DOH) shall formulate and periodically update a National Geriatric Health Service Delivery Plan to ensure equitable access to quality geriatric care.

Section 5. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) shall determine and prescribe the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the PGC, subject to the evaluation and approval of the Department of Budget and Management, and in accordance with applicable civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 6. *Appropriations.* - An initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (PhP500,000,000) shall be appropriated for the upgrading, capacity-building, and initial operations of the PGC. Provided, That said funding shall be released in phases over a five-year period, subject to periodic performance evaluation and progress reports submitted to Congress. Provided, further, That the Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the subsequent Annual General Appropriations Act.

Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the hospital, including its upgrading and expansion of services, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Civil Service Commission (CSC), National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), and other related government agencies, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations for the efficient implementation of this Act.

Section 8. *Separability Clause* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with an established internet website presence.