

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7870



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING LOCAL RABIES CONTROL AND PREVENTION BY
MANDATING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CREATE LOCAL RABIES
PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMITTEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9482, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-RABIES ACT
OF 2007"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rabies is a deadly but preventable disease transmitted through the bites, scratches, or saliva of infected animals, commonly dogs and cats.¹ In 2024, the Department of Health (DOH) recorded 426 rabies-related deaths nationwide.² Meanwhile, in the first eight (8) months of 2025, 211 cases of rabies have been reported in the country.³ These figures reveal that rabies remains a serious public health concern in the Philippines, despite the availability of preventive and treatment measures.

In Parañaque City alone, the cases of animal bites have been increasing over the years, from over 8,000 cases in 2023 to over 12,000 in 2025, with one recorded rabies-related death in 2024.⁴ Although more animal bite cases are receiving post-exposure prophylaxis, access to and completion of treatment remain inconsistent. For instance, of the 737 animal bite cases recorded in the first 3 quarters of 2022, only 576

¹ DOH logs 211 rabies cases from January to August 2025. Inquirer.net. Available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2096527/%E2%81%A0%E2%81%A0doh-logs-211-rabies-cases-from-january-to-august-2025>

² DOH records 426 deaths due to rabies in 2024. Inquirer.net. Available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2044420/doh-records-426-deaths-due-to-rabies-in-2024>

³ DOH logs 211 rabies cases from January to August 2025. Inquirer.net. Available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/209527/%E2%81%A0%E2%81%A0doh-logs-211-rabies-cases-from-january-to-august-2025h>

⁴ Parañaque City Health Office.

completed their anti-rabies vaccine treatment. In fact, several of our constituents have shared that they had a difficult time looking for free post-exposure treatment near them.

According to the World Health Organization, rabies is preventable through three interventions: (1) awareness; (2) post-exposure prophylaxis; and (3) mass dog vaccination.⁵ The government has made efforts to control and prevent rabies, primarily through the enactment of Republic Act No. 9482 or the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007. This law requires local government units to enact ordinances to support the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program and establish veterinary offices in every province, city and first-class municipality. In addition, some hospitals, health centers, or local government units have also established Animal Bite Centers, to administer immediate post-exposure treatment.

However, access to free vaccinations and related services remain uneven across localities. Not all communities have readily accessible or free post-exposure treatments and many individuals remain unaware of existing rabies prevention and control measures. Further, the high number of recorded cases of rabies and rabies-related deaths reveal the gaps in the awareness, prevention, and treatment of this preventable disease.

This bill aims to strengthen the implementation of R.A. No. 9482 by requiring each provincial, city, and municipal government to establish a Rabies Prevention and Control Committee, which shall implement policies on rabies awareness, prevention, and treatment. Said Committee shall also ensure the establishment of local animal bite centers and the implementation of free vaccination programs. With this proposed measure, we aim to ensure that each local government is able to adopt an integrated approach to controlling animal rabies and mitigating rabies-related deaths.

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


BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

⁵ Human rabies prevention and management. World Health Organization. Available at: <https://www.who.int/activities/human-rabies-prevention-and-management>.

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

SECTION 1. A new Section 7-A shall be inserted after Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”, which shall read as follows:

SECTION 7-A. LOCAL RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMITTEE. — EACH PROVINCIAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMITTEE, TO BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVE AS CHAIRPERSON;**
- (B) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LOCAL SANGGUNIANG;**
- (C) REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVINCIAL, CITY, OR MUNICIPAL HEALTH OFFICE;**
- (D) REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVINCIAL, CITY, OR MUNICIPAL HEALTH OFFICE;**
- (E) REPRESENTATIVE OF SCHOOL DIVISION OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;**

- (F) REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVINCIAL, DISTRICT, CITY OR MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE; AND
- (G) AT LEAST ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM NON-GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN ANIMAL WELFARE OR PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMITTEE SHALL IMPLEMENT POLICIES ON RABIES AWARENESS, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT, ESTABLISH ANIMAL BITE CENTERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, IMPLEMENT FREE VACCINATION PROGRAMS, AND COORDINATE ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO REDUCE RABIES-RELATED DEATHS.

SECTION 2. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the respective local government unit in the year following its enactment into law. Thereafter, sums necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of the Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the Department of Health and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act. The non-issuance of the IRR shall not hinder the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations, or administrative orders, rules or regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,