

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7871



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

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BLOOD CENTER, DEFINING ITS
OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution imposes upon the State the obligation to ensure that essential health services, facilities, and resources are not only available and accessible, but are also responsive to the needs of the population.¹ Among these essential health services is the availability of safe and adequate affordable blood and blood products, which are critical in saving lives during medical emergencies, surgical procedures, childbirth, trauma care, and the treatment of chronic and life-threatening conditions.

In recognition of this need, Republic Act No. 7719, or the National Blood Services Act of 1994, was enacted to promote voluntary blood donation, regulate blood banks, and establish a coordinated national blood services program. The law sought to ensure a safe blood supply in the country by prohibiting commercial blood donation and encouraging altruistic blood donation as a public health measure. Pursuant to the authority granted under this law, the Department of Health (DOH) issued Administrative Order No. 2005-002, which established the Philippine Blood Center (PBC) as the national blood service facility tasked with blood collection, testing, processing, storage, and distribution, as well as donor recruitment and training.

Despite the critical role performed by the Philippine Blood Center, it continues to operate without a specific legislative charter. Its existence, authority, organizational structure, and funding remain dependent on administrative issuances and executive priorities.

¹ 1987 CONSTI. Art. II, Section 15.

As a result, the PBC lacks the institutional permanence and autonomy necessary to pursue infrastructure expansion, long-term planning, and sustained nationwide blood donor mobilization. This situation further limits its capacity to proactively address the problem of low blood availability in the country, especially during public health emergencies and other periods of increased medical demand. Additionally, sans a clear statutory mandate, the PBC's programs and operational capabilities are vulnerable to changes in administration, budgetary limitations, and shifting policy priorities.

Moreover, the problem confronting the country's blood services system is not limited to insufficiency of supply alone. Equally pressing is the issue of access. Blood collection and distribution facilities remain highly concentrated in urban centers, particularly in Metro Manila. Our kababayans in far-flung and underserved communities often face delays or difficulties in obtaining blood due to weak coordination among blood service units and logistical constraints. These barriers contribute to preventable morbidity and mortality, especially among vulnerable populations.

This bill seeks to address these concerns by institutionalizing the Philippine Blood Center which shall be a permanent, chartered body that will serve as the country's central authority for blood services. By granting the PBC its own charter, the bill aims to strengthen its administrative autonomy and financial stability, enabling it to function as a truly national institution capable of leading blood services across the country. Institutionalization will also allow the PBC to develop long-term strategies and invest in modern facilities and technologies, as well as implement nationwide donor education and recruitment programs.

Moreover, the bill proposes the establishment of regional blood centers strategically located throughout the country. These regional centers shall operate under a decentralized but fully coordinated framework, ensuring that blood services are brought closer to communities while remaining aligned with national standards and policies. This approach promotes equity in access by reducing regional disparities, improving response times during emergencies, and strengthening local capacities for blood collection, testing, storage, and distribution. A coordinated regional network also enhances preparedness for disasters and public health crises, when rapid mobilization and redistribution of blood supply are critical.

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

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN

Representative

2nd District of Parañaque

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

SECTION 1. Title – This set shall be known as the “Philippine Blood Center Act of 2026.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of every patient requiring blood transfusion by ensuring adequate supply of blood that is safe, affordable, equitable, effective and efficient at all times when the need arises

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- a. *Blood* – refers to the human blood for transfusion
- b. *Blood component* – refers but not limited to whole blood. red cells, granulocytes, plasma, platelets, cryoprecipitate and cryosupernate prepared in a Blood Center
- c. *Blood product* – a therapeutic substance derived from whole blood or plasma
- d. *Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donor* – a donor who gives blood freely and voluntarily without receiving money or any form of payment

SEC. 4. Philippine Blood Center – There shall be established a Philippine Blood Center (PBC) which shall address the safe and equitable supply of blood and blood products to all hospitals and non-hospital based facilities doing blood transfusion. It shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), and shall be located at the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) Compound, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The Philippine Blood Center shall be the lead blood center of the Philippine National Blood Services (PNBS), a group of DOH-retained, Philippine Red Cross and LGU regional blood centers all over the Philippines.

SEC. 5. Purposes and Objectives. -The PBC shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a. Centrally recruit, motivate, and screen blood donors and care for voluntary blood donors;
- b. Centrally collect blood from qualified voluntary blood donors;
- c. Test units of blood for the five (5) transfusion-transmissible infections (HIV 1 and 2, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Malaria and Syphilis)
- d. Process whole blood into blood components;
- e. Collect blood components through Apheresis;
- f. Store, issue, transport and distribute whole blood and blood components to end-user hospitals and non-hospital health facilities;
- g. Implement and monitor quality assurance to selected regional blood centers;
- h. Conduct training and research related to blood bank technology and blood transfusion services;
- i. Perform special confirmatory and reference immunohematologic examinations such as: identification of red cell antibodies, phenotyping of patients and donors, and provision of antigen-negative red cell units;
- j. Manufacture and provide typing sera and panel of reagent red cells;
- k. Prepare special plasma derivatives;
- l. Ensure that safe supply of blood and blood products to all hospitals and other health facilities are adequate in terms of distribution and delivery; and
- m. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the National Council of Blood Services.

SEC. 6. Scope of Services. – Consistent with its purposes and objectives, the PBC shall provide the following services:

- a. Advocate, disseminate information and promote voluntary blood donation including healthy lifestyle in the community as an effective way to recruit, retain and care for qualified volunteer blood donors;
- b. Coordinate human resource and logistics assistance to mobile blood donations within the Blood Services Network especially during disease outbreak like Dengue infection, natural calamities and disasters where blood and blood products are critical as a form of life -saving measure;

- c. Engage in social mobilization activities like conduct of mobile blood donation activities in partnership with the Local Blood Council, Philippine

Red Cross, Blood Service Facilities, Local Government Executives, Blood Collection Units and other institutional blood donor organizations;

- d. Collect Apheresis – derived blood products from qualified volunteer donors.
- e. Test blood units for infectious agents, blood component processing and leuko-reduction/depletion of units of blood for issuance and distribution of safe, quality blood and blood products;
- f. Standardize and regularly monitor all Blood Service Facilities and hospitals in its network;
- g. Provide on-the-job training for BSF staff, technical assistance as well as technical resource persons in the education and training of medical technologists and other technical personnel of other regional blood centers; and
- h. Conduct research in the field of blood transfusion and blood bank technology.

SEC. 7. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern. – The DOH, through the Health Human Resource Development Bureau (HHRDB) shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the PBC subject to the evaluation by the Civil Service Commission and of the Organization Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management. The DOH may reorganize said structure. modify the staffing pattern and create or abolish divisions, sections or units in the PBC.

SEC. 8. Appointment by the DOH. – The DOH, through the HHRDB shall have the authority to appoint, promote, transfer, remove, suspend or otherwise discipline the officers and employees of the PBC upon the recommendation of the Director, subject to Civil Service laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 9. Director. – The PBC shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Health.

The Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a. Execute the policies, guidelines, standards, projects, programs and other activities approved by the Secretary of Health, and be responsible for the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;
- b. Submit for consideration and approval of the Secretary of Health proposed measures, policies, guidelines and programs as may be deemed necessary or proper for the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;

- c. Direct and supervise the management, operation and administration of the PBC, and may delegate this power and any or some of his administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the PBC;
- d. Execute, on behalf of the Secretary of Health, all contracts and agreements which the latter may enter into, and to execute, accomplish and deliver any and all documents relative to such contracts and agreements;
- e. Represent the PBC in all dealings with other offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the government, and all other persons or entities, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private:
- f. Recommend to the Secretary of Health the appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal and suspension of the officers and employees of the PBC; and
- g. Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed by the Secretary of Health.

SEC. 10. Program for Indigents. – The DOH shall ensure that the PBC shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents needing blood and blood products in accordance to the implementing guidelines on classification of patients and on availment of Medical Social Services in Government Hospitals.

SEC. 11. Tax Exemptions and other Privileges. – The provision of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding, all donations, grants contributions, gifts or endowments received by the PBC pursuant hereto, shall be exempt from income, gift and all other kinds of taxes, and shall be further considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 as amended.

SEC. 12. Annual Report – The PBC shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, 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.

SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The Secretary of Health in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and Development, shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act

SEC. 14. Appropriations. – The amount of One Hundred Million (Php 100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial operation and maintenance of the PBC. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation of the PBC shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 15. Non-Profit Operation – The PBC shall operate on a non-profit basis provided that it may collect blood service fees not greater than the maximum prescribed by the

DOH 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. 16. Establishment of a Trust Fund. – A trust fund shall be established out of the donations generated by the PBC and its retained income from the collected blood service fees. The funds shall be used for the twenty-four hour operation, additional manpower, purchase of additional blood bank equipment and for the augmentation of Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) specifically for the purchase of reagents, medical and laboratory supplies.

SEC. 17. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,