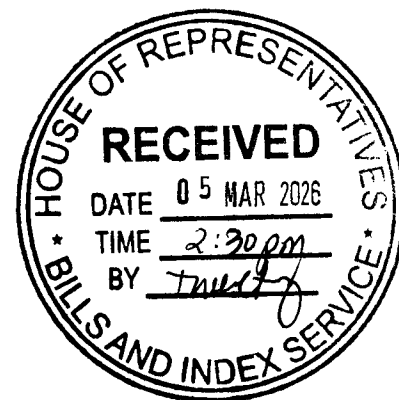


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8309**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The liver is an essential body organ that performs over five hundred (500) vital functions, which include removing waste products and foreign substances from the bloodstream, regulating blood sugar levels, and creating essential nutrients.¹

Cognizant of the liver's vital role in sustaining essential bodily functions, it is imperative to advance and refine existing medical treatments for liver-related diseases. Equally important is ensuring that comprehensive and sustained research is undertaken on liver health, the prevention and management of liver diseases, and effective measures to mitigate liver damage.

According to the latest estimates from the World Health Organization, liver disease caused approximately Two (2) million deaths in 2019.² Liver cirrhosis and liver cancer are currently the 11th and 24th leading causes of death worldwide, respectively. Around 354 million people globally live with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C infection.³ Moreover, according to recent data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, liver diseases accounted for 27.3 cases per 1,000 deaths in the country in 2020. Liver cirrhosis accounts for 31.8% of liver-related deaths in the country, while the malignant disease of the liver comprises 35.8%. Viral hepatitis comprises 5.3% of liver-related deaths.⁴

Corollary to the foregoing, the urgent need to prioritize liver health and address liver-related diseases cannot be overstated. It is hereby recognized as a matter of public health and national concern, necessitating the establishment of a centralized institution tasked with advancing liver

¹The Liver and Its Functions. (n.d.) *Columbia University Department of Surgery*. Retrieved 12 December 2025 from <https://columbiasurgery.org/liver/liver-and-its-functions>

²Asrani, S., et al. (2019, January). Burden of liver diseases in the world. *J Hepatol*. 2019 Jan;70(1):151-171. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2018.09.014. Epub 2018 Sep 26. PMID: 30266282.

³Global hepatitis report, 2017. *World Health Organization*. Retrieved from www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241565455.

⁴Ornos, E., et al. (2023). Liver diseases: Perspective from the Philippines. *Ann Hepatol*. 2023 May-Jun;28(3):101085. doi: 10.1016/j.aohp.2023.101085. Epub 2023 Mar 6. PMID: 36889673.

research, promoting public awareness, and ensuring the effective prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of liver diseases.

Therefore, this measure aims to establish a center for liver treatment, prevention, research and other various processes concerning the function and components of the human liver in the Philippines.

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



ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8303

Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE LIVER CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES,
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 “Liver Center of the Philippines Act.”

SECTION 2. *Establishment of the Liver Center of the Philippines.* - There is hereby established a national specialty center to be known as the Liver Center of the Philippines, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH). It shall offer comprehensive care of patients with liver disorders, including liver transplant services, strong teaching and training programs, and research capability to serve the Filipino people.

SECTION 3. *Purpose and Objectives.* - The Liver Center of the Philippines shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- (a) Establish and operate a liver rehabilitation, treatment, or transplant center for the public welfare;
- (b) Offer comprehensive care for patients with liver diseases;
- (c) Conduct training and research on the prevention and treatment of blood liver diseases and those related to liver regeneration and transplant services, including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;

- (d) Establish a state-of-the-art liver diseases laboratory, including a molecular laboratory;
- (e) Establish a liver stem cell transplant program and donor registry;
- (f) Recruit and retain voluntary liver donors;
- (g) Process whole liver into liver components;
- (h) Collect liver components;
- (i) Store, issue, transport, and distribute whole liver to end-user hospitals and non-hospital health facilities;
- (j) Ensure that safe supply of liver and liver products to all hospitals and other health facilities are adequate in terms of distribution and delivery;
- (k) Implement and monitor quality assurance to selected regional liver centers;
- (l) Test liver infections; and
- (m) Provide special and confirmatory tests and perform liver examinations.

SECTION 4. *Powers and Functions.* - The Liver Center of the Philippines shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Serve as an apex hospital or end-referral facility that specializes in liver care and diseases;
- (b) Establish and maintain professional and technical educational systems for the sustained development of the necessary manpower to manage and operate its affairs and business;
- (c) Provide technical assistance and capacity building in the establishment of liver specialty centers in accordance with Republic Act No. 11959, otherwise known as the “Regional Specialty Centers Act;”
- (d) Invest its funds as it may deem proper and necessary, but subject to applicable rules and regulations, in any activity related to the Liver Center of the Philippines, including in any bonds or securities and

guaranteed by the Government of the Philippines;

- (e) Acquire assets, real or personal, interest therein, and encumber or otherwise dispose the same as it may deem proper and necessary in the conduct of its business;
- (f) Borrow money from local or foreign sources as may be necessary for its operations, subject to applicable laws, rules and regulations;
- (g) Accept any gifts, contributions, endowments, grants, bequests, and devices of any kind, of real or personal property, which are necessary and proper for the attainment of the purpose of the hospitals; and
- (h) Perform such acts and exercise such functions as may be necessary and proper for the attainment of the purposes and objectives herein specified.

SECTION 5. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Director.* - The Liver Center of the Philippines shall be headed by the Executive Director, who shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Provide overall direction and strategic leadership to the Liver Center of the Philippines towards the provision of high-quality health services;
- (b) Oversee all managerial and administrative processes and operations of all departments of the Liver Center of the Philippines;
- (c) Supervise daily activities of functional units;
- (d) Ensure high standards in clinical training for medical and allied medical personnel;
- (e) Execute, on behalf of the hospital, all contracts and agreements which the hospital may enter into, and accomplish and deliver any and all documents relative to such contracts and agreements, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- (f) Represent the hospital 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; and
- (g) Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed by the DOH.

SECTION 6. *Program for Indigents.* - The DOH shall ensure that the Liver Center of the Philippines shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents needing liver/liver products and patients with liver diseases, in accordance with the implementing guidelines on classification of patients on availment of Medical Social Services in government hospitals.

SECTION 7. *Exemption from Taxes.* - All donations, endowments, contributions, grants, and bequests used actually, directly, and exclusively for and in accordance with the purposes and functions of the Liver Center of the Philippines shall be exempt from donor's tax, and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donors, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

The Liver Center of the Philippines shall be exempt from income tax and customs duty levied by the government and its political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, subject to the provision of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, and Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act."

The Liver Center of the Philippines shall avail of the tax expenditure subsidy administered by the Fiscal Incentives Review Board, subject to the provisions of Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the National Revenue Code 1997, as amended, Executive Order No. 93, as amended, and the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Contracts.* - The Liver Center of the Philippines shall the authority to enter into contracts with any person or entity, domestic, or foreign and with government for the undertaking of the varied aspects of the Liver Center, including the acquisition, by way of purchase, lease, rent, or other deferred payment arrangements of equipment and/or raw materials and supplies, as well as for services connected therewith under such terms and conditions as it may deem proper and reasonable.

In the acquisition and disposal of property, real or personal, a bidding process shall be necessary to conform to the requirements of public bidding as provided for in Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and related laws.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH shall, in consultation with other stakeholders, promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against current year's appropriation of the concerned departments and agencies. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,