



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10292

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
Third Congressional District, Camarines Sur

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to health is enshrined in our Constitution, mandating the State to protect and promote the health of its citizens. In line with this mandate, Republic Act No. 7719, otherwise known as the "*National Blood Services Act of 1994*," was enacted to ensure a safe, adequate, and accessible supply of blood through voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation.

Pursuant to RA 7719, the Department of Health (DOH) issued Administrative Order No. 2005-0002, establishing the Philippine Blood Center (PBC) as the premier national blood service facility. The PBC was envisioned to oversee the collection, testing, processing, storage, and distribution of blood and blood components nationwide. However, despite its critical role, the PBC currently operates without a formal legal charter and relies solely on the budget allocation of the National Voluntary Blood Services Program (NVBSP). This lack of institutionalization severely hinders its ability to expand infrastructure, build permanent human resource capabilities, and respond effectively to the country's blood supply needs, particularly during health emergencies.

The Philippine healthcare system has long recognized the value of specialized institutional frameworks, as demonstrated by our existing apex specialty healthcare institutions, such as the Philippine Heart Center (PHC), the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI), the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP), and the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC). Yet, while these specialty hospitals drive advanced clinical interventions, the country lacks a standalone, institutionalized corporate entity exclusively dedicated to the advanced science of blood services and hematology. This measure addresses that institutional gap.

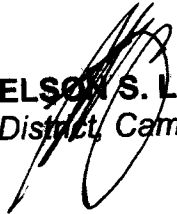
Furthermore, this bill serves as a critical component of a comprehensive health infrastructure agenda. It is designed to work in synergy with separate legislative measures championed by the undersigned, which look ahead to the

establishment of advanced Blood Plasma Banks to capture essential plasma derivatives, as well as the creation of a specialized National Liver Center in the Philippines. Together, these initiatives seek to revolutionize specialized tertiary care in the country.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the Philippine Blood Center, providing it with a solid legal framework and corporate character to function as the definitive central hub for blood services in the country. It likewise empowers regional DOH offices to establish and manage their own Regional Blood Centers, ensuring a decentralized yet highly coordinated national health network.

This proposed measure is an improved version of bills filed by numerous representatives since the 15th Congress, which originally originated from the technical vision of the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center.

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


NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, Third District, Camarines Sur



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**AN ACT 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:*

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Blood Center Act*."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Towards this end, the State shall establish a Philippine Blood Center which will become the national and central hub of blood services in the country, overseeing the collection, testing, processing, storage, and distribution of blood and blood components.

SECTION 3. The Philippine Blood Center. - There shall be established a Philippine Blood Center under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH). The Philippine Blood Center shall be the national blood center of the Philippines.

SECTION 4. Purposes and Objectives. - The Philippine Blood Center, as the premier blood service facility of the Philippines, will have the capability to:

- a) Centrally recruit, motivate, and screen blood donors;
- b) Centrally collect, test for transfusion-transmissible infections, process, store, issue, and transport blood and blood components for transfusion;

- c) Perform special immunohematology tests;
- d) Provide information, educate, and counsel on transfusion-transmissible infections;
- e) Create a database for blood donors in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012;
- f) Conduct quality assurance and surveillance;
- g) Establish a national hemovigilance system;
- h) Conduct training and research in blood banking and related technologies and fields as basis for national policy-making;
- i) Capacitate regional blood centers;
- j) Administer to the resource stratification for national blood services in collaboration with regional blood centers; and
- k) Other functions assigned by the DOH.

SECTION 5. *Regional Blood Centers.* - All regions of the Philippines shall have regional blood centers which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Philippine Blood Center. The regional blood centers shall be the local region hub for regional blood services.

SECTION 6. *Non-profit Operations.* - The Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers 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.

SECTION 7. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* - The DOH will craft staffing standards and create new positions as necessary to ensure the appropriate human resources for the operation of the Philippine Blood Center and Regional Blood Centers subject to the approval of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

SECTION 8. *Directors.* - The Philippine Blood Center 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.

SECTION 9. *Program for Indigents.* - The DOH shall ensure that the Philippine Blood Center shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents needing blood and blood components in accordance to the implementing guidelines on the classification of patients and on availing of the Medical Social Services in Government Hospitals.

SECTION 10. *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 Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers 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.

SECTION 11. *Establishment of a Trust Fund.* - A trust fund shall be established out of the retained income from collected blood service fees. The trust fund shall be used for the operations of the Philippine Blood Center and the Regional Blood Centers.

SECTION 12. *Annual Report.* - The Philippine Blood Center 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.

SECTION 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Health in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 14. *Appropriations.* - The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act, including maintenance and other operating expenses of the Philippine Blood Center shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOH.

For the succeeding years, the amount allocated for the Philippine Blood Center in the DOH budget shall be based on its strategic plan, in coordination with other stakeholders.

SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of the Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, acts, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 17. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,