

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10111



Introduced by **Representative JEFFREY SORIANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to expand access to specialized tertiary healthcare by establishing regional branches of the country's premier specialty hospitals namely the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine Children's Medical Center, and Philippine Cancer Center, in Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Southern Mindanao.

At present, these specialty hospitals are based almost exclusively in Metro Manila, requiring patients from the provinces to travel long distances, often at significant expense, to access specialized cardiac, renal, pulmonary, pediatric, and oncologic care. This geographic concentration of specialized health services disproportionately burdens poor and rural Filipinos, who frequently forgo or delay treatment due to the cost and difficulty of traveling to the National Capital Region.

This bill mandates the establishment of at least one regional branch of a specialty hospital in each major island grouping within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, backed by a clearer framework for governance, property administration, and tax privileges modeled on the existing mother institutions.

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


HON. JEFFREY SORIANO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING REGIONAL BRANCHES OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS
SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER, NATIONAL KIDNEY AND
TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE, LUNG CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES,
PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER AND PHILIPPINE CANCER
CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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 “*Regional Specialty Hospitals Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide access to affordable and quality healthcare services to Filipinos, including the provision of specialty hospitals in the different regions of the country pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution, which provides that “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

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

a. Mother Unit refers to the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine Children's Medical Center, or Philippine Cancer Center, as the case may be, whose Regional Branch is established under this Act;

b. Regional Branch refers to a branch of a Mother Unit established in a region of the country pursuant to Section 4 of this Act. A Regional Branch shall have no juridical personality separate and distinct from its Mother Unit, and all its acts, contracts, and liabilities shall be deemed those of its Mother Unit; and

c. Regional Specialty Hospital refers collectively to all Regional Branches established under this Act.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of Regional Specialty Hospitals.* - There shall be branches of the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine Children's and Medical Center, and Philippine Cancer Center to be established in the different regions of the country. Within three (3) years upon the enactment of this Act, there shall be at least one (1) specialty hospital from the abovementioned specialty hospitals in Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Southern Mindanao. The Department of Health (DOH) shall determine the specialty hospital to be established in the different regions, taking into consideration the prevalent illnesses in the area.

SEC. 5. *National Government Share.* - The National Government shall constitute the necessary land, building, equipment, and facilities, to the regional branches of the specialty hospital, and shall pay such obligations for real, personal, and mixed properties arising from such undertaking under a deferred payment arrangement within five (5) years, at a preferred rate of interest.

SEC. 6. *Property of the Regional Specialty Hospital.* - The property of the Regional Specialty Hospital shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other type of property, now owned or reserved for, or may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to, the Regional Branch of the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine Children's Medical Center, and Philippine Cancer Center, as applicable, by the Philippine Government, its branches and instrumentalities, any foreign government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, alien or domestic, in order to carry out its purpose and objectives as set forth herein.

SEC. 7. *Purposes and Objectives.* - The purposes and objectives of the Regional Specialty Hospital are as follows:

a. To construct, establish, operate and maintain regional branches of specialty hospitals for the public welfare;

b. To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research on the prevention of heart, kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary diseases and care and/or treatment of such diseases and related activities, including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;

c. To stimulate and/ or underwrite scientific researches on the biological, demographic, social, economic, eugenic, physiological aspects

of heart, kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary disorders and abnormalities and its control; and gather, compile, and publish the findings of such researches for public dissemination;

d. To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, treatment and control of heart, kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary diseases, to arouse, enhance and develop public interest on such diseases and arouse consciousness or awareness on general health and physical fitness;

e. To encourage and/or undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of heart, kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary services, and related activities;

f. To assist universities, hospitals and research institutions in their studies of heart, kidney, liver, cancer and pulmonary anomalies, to encourage advanced training on matters of, or affecting the heart, kidney, liver, cancer and lungs, and related fields and to support educational programs of value to general health;

g. To encourage the formation of other organization on the national, provincial, city, municipal or barangay level and to coordinate their various efforts and activities for the purpose of achieving a more effective programmatic approach on the common problems relative to the objectives herein enumerated; and

h. To extend medical and heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary services to the general public, to help prevent, relieve or alleviate the innumerable heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary afflictions and maladies of the people especially the poor and less fortunate in life, without regard to race, creed, color or political belief.

SEC. 8. *Governing Board.* – The Governing Board of the Regional Specialty Hospital shall be the Governing Board of their respective mother units; *Provided,* That the medical director or chief of hospital of the Regional Branch shall be present or invited to the Board meeting whenever matters concerning his/her Regional Branch are in the agenda or for discussion of the Board;

Provided, further, That each Regional Branch shall be headed by a Regional Branch Administrator or Medical Director, who shall be delegated authority by the Governing Board over matters of day-to-day administration, personnel management, and operations of the Regional Branch, subject to the policies, guidelines, and approval of the Governing Board on matters involving capital expenditures, budget allocation, and major administrative decisions.

SEC. 9. *Tax Exemptions and Privileges.* – All existing tax exemptions and privileges of the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine Children’s Medical Center, and Philippine Cancer Center shall be availed of by their Regional Branches.

SEC. 10. *Transportation and Lodging Subsidy for Medical Specialists and Experts.* – To encourage the assignment and/ or temporary practice of medical specialists and experts in the Regional Branches of Specialty Hospitals, especially during the initial stage of their establishment, the Regional Branches are allowed to provide transportation and lodging subsidy and other necessary subsidies over and above of their salary, professional fee and other emoluments.

SEC. 11. *Assistance From Government Offices.* – The Regional Specialty Hospital, may call upon any Department, Bureau, Office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, particularly the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, for such assistance it may need in the pursuit of its purpose and objectives.

SEC. 12. *Government Subsidy and Contributions.* – The amount of Five billion pesos (Php 5,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as contribution of the National Government for their initial establishment, operations, and maintenance of the Regional Specialty Hospitals for the year 2027. Thereafter, the amount necessary to ensure the continued operations and maintenance of the Regional Specialty Hospitals shall be duly provided for, appropriated, and released from the General Appropriations Act. The respective funds therefrom shall be administered by the respective Board of each specialty hospital.

SEC. 13. *Annual Report.* – Each Regional Specialty Hospital shall render to their respective mother units, the DOH, the President of the Philippines, and the Congress of the Philippines, annual report of its activities, accomplishments, and recommendations.

SEC. 14. *Effect of Dissolution of the Regional Specialty Hospital.* – If, for any reason, the Regional Specialty Hospital is dissolved, its assets and properties remaining at the time of dissolution, shall revert to the Philippine Government for disposition in accordance with law.

SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Medical Director or Chief of Hospital of the respective mother unit of the Specialty Hospital, shall issue such rules, regulations, and other issuances as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,