



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11082



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT REGISTRY,
PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL SUPPORT FOR INDIGENT
ORGAN TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Organ transplantation remains one of the most critical life-saving medical interventions for patients suffering from end-stage organ failure. While the Philippines has long recognized the importance of organ donation through Republic Act No. 7170, otherwise known as the ‘Organ Donation Act of 1991’, gaps persist in the implementation of a centralized, transparent, and efficient system for organ allocation and transplant coordination. The absence of an integrated national registry, coupled with the high cost of transplantation and post-operative care, continues to limit access—especially for indigent patients.

Thousands of Filipinos suffer from chronic kidney disease, liver failure, and other organ-related conditions that could be treated through transplantation. Despite advancements in medical science, many patients are unable to receive timely and adequate care due to financial constraints and fragmented information systems for organ donation and recipient matching.

At present, the absence of a comprehensive national transplant registry hampers the efficient allocation of donated organs, resulting in delays, inequities, and preventable loss of life. Moreover, indigent patients often face insurmountable financial barriers, including costs related to surgery, hospitalization, post-operative care, and lifelong immunosuppressive therapy.

This measure seeks to establish a National Organ Transplant Registry that integrates donor and recipient data, ensures equitable allocation of organs based on medical need and ethical standards, and strengthens government oversight. It likewise institutionalizes financial and medical support mechanisms for indigent patients, thereby promoting equitable access to transplantation services. In strengthening existing laws and addressing systemic gaps, this bill aims to save lives, uphold human dignity, and advance universal health care in the Philippines.

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



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JUDE A. ACIDRE



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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 “*Organ Transplant Support and Registry Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health by ensuring equitable, ethical, and accessible organ donation and transplantation services. The State shall establish a

centralized and transparent system for organ allocation, strengthen institutional mechanisms for organ donation, and provide comprehensive financial risk protection for transplant patients, particularly those who are indigent.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) Organ Transplantation refers to surgical procedure of transferring human organs from a donor to a recipient for the purpose of medical treatment;
- (b) Donor refers to a living or deceased individual who donates an organ in accordance with law;
- (c) Recipient refers to a patient receiving an organ transplant;
- (d) Indigent Patient refers to a patient certified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or a local social welfare office as financially incapable of defraying medical costs;
- (e) Registry refers to the National Organ Transplant Registry (NOTR);
- (f) Transplant Center refers to a hospital duly licensed and accredited by the Department of Health (DOH) to perform transplantation procedures;
- (g) Organ Procurement refers to the process of identifying, retrieving, and preserving organs for transplantation.

SECTION 4. *Establishment of the National Organ Transplant Registry.* —

There is hereby established, under the Department of Health (DOH), a National Organ Transplant Registry (NOTR), which shall serve as a centralized, secure, and real-time system for the registration, matching, allocation, and monitoring of all organ donation and transplantation activities in the country.

The NOTR shall:

- (a) Maintain a national waiting list ranked according to objective and standardized criteria including medical urgency, compatibility, and waiting time;
- (b) Operate a 24-hour national coordination system for organ allocation and transport;
- (c) Establish a National Donor Registry for voluntary donor consent;
- (d) Ensure full traceability of organs from donor to recipient;
- (e) Integrate with relevant government databases, subject to applicable laws;
- (f) Develop regional clustering mechanisms; and
- (g) Generate data analytics for policy and planning

SECTION 5. *Mandatory Reporting, Compliance, and Audit* – All transplant centers, hospitals, organ procurement units, and related facilities shall submit complete and accurate data to the NOTR within twenty-four (24) hours from identification of a potential donor, completion of organ retrieval, or performance of a transplant procedure, and within seven (7) calendar days for full clinical outcome reporting. Each facility shall designate a full-time Transplant Registry Officer, trained and certified by the DOH within six (6) months from effectivity of this Act, responsible for compliance and data integrity. All facilities shall adopt interoperable electronic systems compliant with DOH standards within one (1) year.

The DOH shall conduct annual audits and at least one (1) unannounced inspection per year for each accredited facility, supported by automated data validation tools. A compliance scorecard shall be published annually. Non-

compliance shall result in graduated sanctions: (a) fine of not less than ₱100,000 for first offense; (b) suspension of accreditation for second offense; and (c) revocation of license for repeated or willful violations, without prejudice to civil or criminal liability.

SECTION 6. *Comprehensive Financial and Medical Support for Indigent Patients.* – The State shall guarantee full continuum care for indigent transplant patients, including pre-transplant evaluation, transplant surgery, and post-transplant management. PhilHealth shall provide a comprehensive transplant benefit package covering at least ninety percent (90%) of total hospitalization and surgical costs, inclusive of professional fees. The DOH shall subsidize the remaining costs through the National Transplant Assistance Fund, ensuring zero or minimal out-of-pocket expense not exceeding ten percent (10%) of total cost.

Post-transplant care shall include provision of lifelong immunosuppressive therapy, with annual coverage not less than ₱250,000 per patient, subject to periodic adjustment by the DOH. Transportation and accommodation assistance for indigent patients from geographically isolated areas shall be provided up to ₱50,000 per case. Claims processing shall be completed within thirty (30) days, and automatic enrollment of qualified patients into PhilHealth and assistance programs shall be mandatory.

SECTION 7. *Institutional Roles and National Transplant Network.* – The DOH shall establish a National Transplant Network within one (1) year from effectivity of this Act, composed of accredited transplant centers, regional referral hospitals, and organ procurement units. Each province and highly urbanized city

shall designate at least one (1) Level III or Level II government hospital as a Referral and Donor Identification Unit within six (6) months, with trained personnel for donor detection and referral.

LGUs shall allocate at least one percent (1%) of their local health budget, where feasible, to support transplant-related services, including donor awareness and logistics. A National Transplant Advisory Council shall convene at least quarterly and submit policy recommendations to the DOH. The DOH shall issue national referral and transport protocols, including maximum allowable transport times per organ type, within six (6) months.

SECTION 8. *Ethical Standards and Safeguards.* — All organ donation shall require documented informed consent and shall strictly adhere to non-commercialization principles. Living donor transplantation shall require approval by an independent ethics committee within seventy-two (72) hours from submission of complete documentation, including medical, psychosocial, and financial assessment. A mandatory seven (7)-day cooling-off period shall be observed prior to final consent.

The DOH shall establish a national reporting hotline and digital platform for suspected organ trafficking within six (6) months. Confirmed violations involving sale or purchase of organs shall be punishable by imprisonment and fines not less than ₱1,000,000, without prejudice to prosecution under other laws. Healthcare professionals found complicit shall face immediate suspension pending investigation.

SECTION 9. *Data Privacy, Security and Patient Rights.* – The NOTR shall implement end-to-end encryption, multi-factor authentication, and real-time access logs, compliant with national and international health data security standards. All data breaches shall be reported to the National Privacy Commission within seventy-two (72) hours and affected individuals notified within five (5) days.

Patients shall have the right to access their records within fifteen (15) working days from request and to request corrections within thirty (30) days. Unauthorized disclosure or misuse of data shall be punishable by fines and/or imprisonment, in addition to penalties under existing data privacy laws.

SECTION 10. *Public Awareness and Donor Promotion.* — The DOH, in coordination with LGUs, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and relevant stakeholders, shall implement sustained and culturally sensitive public awareness programs to promote voluntary organ donation. Such programs shall include integration of organ donation education in school curricula, community health campaigns, and partnerships with religious and community leaders to address ethical and cultural concerns.

A National Organ Donation Awareness Program shall be established, including annual observance activities and the development of accessible donor registration platforms. Recognition programs for organ donors and their families shall be instituted to honor their contribution, provided that such recognition shall not involve monetary or material compensation that may be construed as commercialization.

SECTION 11. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Funding shall likewise be sourced from PhilHealth allocations, earmarked revenues from excise taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and other health-related products, as well as grants, donations, and official development assistance.

SECTION 12. *Monitoring, Evaluation and Transparency.* – The DOH shall establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to assess the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of this Act. It shall develop measurable performance indicators, including transplant rates, donor rates, waiting times, geographic equity, and patient outcomes, and shall regularly review system performance.

An annual report shall be submitted to Congress detailing program implementation, fund utilization, and outcomes. The DOH shall also maintain a publicly accessible platform containing anonymized and aggregated data to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust in the organ transplantation system.

SECTION 13. *Penalties.* – Any violation of this Act shall be subject to the following penalties:

- (a) fines ranging from ₱100,000 to ₱5,000,000, depending on gravity;
- (b) suspension or revocation of licenses and accreditation; and
- (c) imprisonment of not less than six (6) years for serious offenses, including organ trafficking, coercion, or commercialization.

Where the offender is a public official or healthcare professional, the penalty shall include perpetual disqualification from public office or practice of profession, in addition to criminal liability. Institutions found liable shall be subject to closure and blacklisting from government programs.

All complaints shall be acted upon promptly, fairly, and in accordance with due process, with strict observance of confidentiality and data privacy laws. The mechanism shall ensure full protection against retaliation or reprisal, whether direct or indirect, against complainants or witnesses, and shall be supported by designated child protection focal persons responsible for assisting in the reporting and resolution process.

SECTION 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), as the lead implementing agency, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Privacy Commission (NPC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Commission on Audit (COA), and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders as may be necessary.

SECTION 15. *Separability Clause*. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts of provisions thereof not affected shall thereby continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,