

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

S. No. 2464

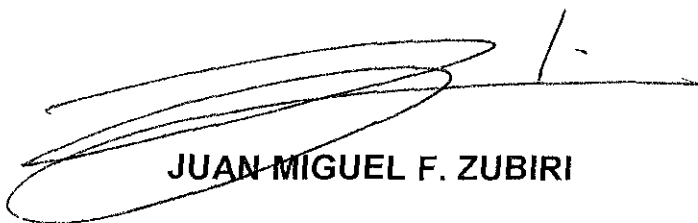
Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE


It cannot be denied that Filipino Culture has a strong hold of respect to our elderliness. We afford them great importance not only in our respective families but to the nation as well, giving them a higher kind of care and treatment.

In connection therewith this humble representation, ironically it may seem being the youngest in the senate, intends to create a National Center for Geriatric Health for the Elderly or the Senior Citizens, which will address specifically the social, psychological and biological aspects of aging people as well as creating a center devoted solely for the studies on the diseases of our elderly. The center will provide delivery of integrated geriatric health services to promote healthy ageing in our country and help combat the increasing incidence of degenerative diseases, frailty and disability.

The early passage of this bill will communicate a sense of goodwill and gratitude to our senior citizens hence approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

SENATE

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S. No. 2464

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

AN ACT
CREATING NATIONAL GERIATRIC HEALTH CENTRE AND
GERONTOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “National Geriatric
2 Health Centre and Gerontology Research Institute of 2010.”

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy** – Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution
5 provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
6 development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social
7 services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the
8 needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State
9 shall endeavour to provide free medical care to paupers.

10
11 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms** – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined
12 as follows:

- 13 a. “*Senior Citizen*” or *elderly*” shall mean any resident citizen of the Philippines at
14 least sixty (60) years old or older as defined in Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise
15 known as the “*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003*”;
- 16 b. “*Geriatric Health Service*” shall mean medical services provided by a
17 Geriatrician;
- 18 c. “*Geriatrician*” is a Medical Doctor who has passed the necessary training and
19 examination and specializes in the field of Geriatrics;
- 20 d. “*Geriatrics*” is the branch of medical science devoted to the study of the
21 biological and physical changes and diseases of older adults. It aims to promote
22 health and prevent and treat diseases and disabilities of older adults;

- 1 e. *"Integrated Delivery of Geriatric Health Services"* is a hospital and community
2 based medical and psycho-social services provided to Senior Citizens by a multi-
3 disciplinary team;
- 4 f. *"Palliative Services"* is a specialized care for people who are living with an
5 advanced disease;
- 6 g. *"Palliative Care"* is any form of medical care or treatment that concentrates on
7 reducing the severity of the symptoms of disease. The goal is to prevent and
8 relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for people facing serious or
9 complex illness;
- 10 h. *"Tertiary Hospital"* is a hospital that has a full complement of services including
11 general medicine, surgery and psychiatry.

12
13 **Sec. 4. Creation of the National Geriatric Health Centre and Gerontology**

14 **Research Institute** – There is hereby created a corporate body, for the primary benefit
15 of Senior citizens or the Elderly to be known as the National Geriatric Health Centre and
16 Gerontology Research Institute, herein referred to as NGHC, which is hereby
17 categorized as a government owned and controlled corporation.

18
19 **Sec. 5. Board of Trustees** – The NGHC shall be administered by a Board of
20 Trustees composed of the following:

- 21 a. Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) – as Chairperson of the Board;
- 22 b. Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – as
23 Assistant Chairperson of the Board;
- 24 c. Two (2) Senators upon designation of the Senate President who shall be *ex*
25 *officio* members;
- 26 d. Two (2) Congressmen upon designation of the Speaker who shall be *ex officio*
27 members;
- 28 e. Three (3) philanthropists from the private sector.

29
30 **Sec. 6. Purposes and Objectives** – The purposes and objectives of the NGHC
31 are to provide the following:

- 32 a. *Hospital-based services* – there shall be medical facilities and equipment
33 necessary to provide chronic, long term and palliative services with its wards to
34 be divided into the following: Dementia, Long Term Care, Palliative Care, Respite
35 Care and other units as may be deemed necessary;
- 36 b. *Community-based services* – to develop and implement community based
37 program in partnership with local government units, conduct research and
38 external resource outsourcing to implement community based integrated geriatric

- 1 health services and conduct training necessary for the social functioning of the
2 senior citizens and their families, utilizing the multi-disciplinary team approaches;
- 3 c. *Education* – to provide field of specialization in Geriatrics and Gerontology,
4 conduct post-graduate training and short term courses for medical doctors and
5 medical allied professionals subject to the Joint Guidelines to be issued by the
6 Department of Health (DOH), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and
7 the Technological Employment and Skills Education development Authority
8 (TESDA);
- 9 d. *Program Development, Research, Medical/Technical Assistance and Quality*
10 *Assurance* – to develop cutting edge research and program to combat diseases
11 of old age in promoting active and healthy care, provide necessary consultancy
12 advice, technical assistance and standard setting/registration to Geriatric ward in
13 every Tertiary hospital, Nursing Homes, Retirement Homes, and Residential
14 Center catering to the health and social functioning needs of senior citizens,
15 subject to the Joint Guidelines mentioned in the immediately preceding
16 paragraph; and
- 17 e. To establish Geriatric Wards manned by medical personnel with expertise and/or
18 training in Geriatrics in every government and private tertiary hospital, subject to
19 the Guidelines that shall be issued by the Department of Health.

20

21 **Sec. 7. Powers** - For the attainment and furtherance of the above cited
22 purposes and objectives, the NGHC, as a body corporate acting through its Board of
23 Trustees, shall have all the powers pertaining to a juridical person, and is authorized,
24 among other things to:

- 25 a. Acquire, hold an own in any manner, property of whatever nature or description,
26 and to dispose of such property, under any mode of encumbrance or
27 conveyance;
- 28 b. Enter into, make, perform and carry out contracts of every kind and for any
29 purpose with any person, firm, association or corporation, whether public, private,
30 domestic and foreign;
- 31 c. Mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey or otherwise dispose of its properties;
- 32 d. Solicit and receive donations, endowments and funds in the form of contributions,
33 whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors and from
34 domestic and foreign sources;
- 35 e. Open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions, and to disburse
36 such funds or invest the same as the Board of Trustees may direct or authorize
37 to accomplish or advance the purposes or interest of the NGHC;

- 1 f. Invite foreign or local specialists and similar experts in various medical fields to
2 train the personnel and residents of the NGHC;
- 3 g. Send the personnel of the NGHC to research on medical institutes for advance
4 training or observation, and to attend international or regional conventions,
5 conferences or seminars as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary, to
6 accomplish the purposes and objectives of the NGHC;
- 7 h. Enter into such agreements and arrangements with other medical or similar
8 institutions, domestic or foreign, as may be deemed desirable by the Board of
9 Trustees toward promoting the purposes and objectives of the NGHC;
- 10 i. Adopt a set of by-laws and regulations, policies, guidelines and procedures
11 consistent with law and the provisions of this Act to govern the administration and
12 operation of the NGHC;
- 13 j. Do all such other acts and things as are or may be necessary for or incidental to
14 the accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the NGHC.
- 15

16 **Sec. 8. Program for Indigents** – The Board of Trustees shall ensure that the
17 NGHC shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents. The number of beds allocated
18 for indigent patients shall not be less than twenty percent (20%) of the total number of
19 hospital beds.

20

21 **Sec. 9. Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and Employees of the**
22 **NGHC** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 6656 entitled “An Act to Protect the
23 Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and Employees in the Implementation of
24 Government Reorganization”, existing civil service laws, rules and regulations and other
25 applicable laws shall apply to all officers and employees of the NGHC except to the
26 members of the Board of Trustees.

27

28 **Sec. 10. Tax Exemption and Other Privileges** – Being a non-profit, non-stock
29 corporation organized primarily to provide delivery of integrated geriatric health services
30 to promote healthy ageing in the Philippines and help combat the increasing incidence
31 of degenerative diseases, frailty and disability and provide services for senior citizens
32 with the threatening diseases in the Philippines,

- 33 a. All donations, contributions, endowments and equipment and supplies imported
34 by the NGHC for its actual use and benefit shall be exempt from tax of any
35 nature or kind;
- 36 b. The NGHC shall be exempt from payment of taxes, charges and fees being
37 imposed by the government, its political subdivisions or instrumentalities,
38 including local government units for equipment purchased for its use; and

1 c. The NGHC may request and receive assistance from the different Agencies,
2 Bureaus, Offices or Instrumentalities of the government including the Philippine
3 Charity Sweepstakes office (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming
4 Corporation (PAGCOR) in the pursuit of its purposes and objectives.
5

6 **Sec. 11. Government Subsidy and Contributions** – The amount of Three
7 Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000) is hereby appropriated as contribution of the
8 National Government for the initial operations and maintenance of the NGHC for the
9 year 2010. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation and
10 maintenance of the NGHC shall be duly provided for, appropriated and released from
11 the National Budget. Such funds shall be administered by the Board of Trustees.
12

13 **Sec. 12. Auditing** – The books of account of the NGHC shall be subject to
14 periodic audit by an independent auditing firm to be commissioned by the Board of
15 Trustees, provided that such audit shall be subject to review by the Commission on
16 Audit.
17

18 **Sec. 13. Annual Report** - The NGHC shall render an Annual Report of its
19 activities, accomplishments and recommendations to the President of the Philippines,
20 the Committee on Health and Social Services in both Houses of Congress, Secretary of
21 the Department of Health and the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and
22 Development.
23

24 **Sec. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - The Secretary of Health shall,
25 within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the Implementing Rules
26 and Regulations for the effective and efficient implementation of the provisions of this
27 Act in consultation with the following agencies and offices:

- 28 a. Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- 29 b. Department of Health;
- 30 c. Commission on Higher Education and;
- 31 d. Department of Finance.
32

33 **Sec. 15. Effect of Dissolution** - In the event the NGHC is dissolved for any
34 reason, its property remaining at the time of such dissolution shall be placed under the
35 Department of Health.
36

37 **Sec. 16. Separability Clause** – If any section or provision of this Act is held
38 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions shall not be affected.

1 **Sec. 17. Effectivity** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general
3 circulation.

4

5 Approved,