

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

22 JUL -7 P 4 :05

SENATE  
S. No. 161

RECEIVED BY



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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" G. EJERCITO

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY CENTER IN EVERY REGION AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**


EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish Regional Specialty Centers in select Department of Health-run regional hospitals. It shall ensure that each region has one established specialty center. The specialty care services that will be offered in each center shall be primarily based on the top burden of disease in the region and significant laws and mandates, among others.

Currently, the Specialty Hospitals - Philippine Heart Center created under Presidential Decree No. 673; National Kidney and Transplant Institute created under Presidential Decree No. 1832; Lung Center of the Philippines created under Presidential Decree No. 1823; and the Philippine Children's Medical Center created under Presidential Decree No. 1631 are all situated in Metro Manila. This burdens patients from far-flung areas to access the services they need from these hospitals. More often than not, the patients are left alone with their ailments without option to access specialty care.

It is the objective of this measure to provide accessible, available, and affordable specialty care service. This bill will complement the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act of 2019 which protects and affords the right to health of every Filipino.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JV' with a horizontal line through the 'V' and a small mark above it.

**JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" G. EJERCITO**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "**Regional Specialty**  
2 **Care Act of 2022.**"

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and  
4 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them  
5 by making health services available, accessible, and affordable for all. To this end, the  
6 State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development  
7 by providing them specialized health services which shall be available and accessible  
8 to all Filipinos at affordable cost.

9 SEC. 3. *Establishment of Specialty Center in Every Region.* - There shall be  
10 established a specialty center in select Department of Health (DOH) hospitals in every  
11 region.

12 *Provided,* That the DOH, through its existing regional hospitals, and in  
13 consultation with the specialty hospitals in the country, shall develop standards for the  
14 creation of Regional Specialty Centers to increase the accessibility of specialty health  
15 care services to patients.

16 SEC. 4. *Regional Specialty Centers Development Plan.* - The DOH, in  
17 consultation with the stakeholders, shall formulate a ten (10)-year development plan  
18 that will identify and expedite the establishment of Regional Specialty Centers in DOH-  
19 regional hospitals. It shall include among others, the following:

1           1. *Infrastructure*- The necessary infrastructure, basic facilities and equipment  
2           needed for the establishment of Regional Specialty Centers; and,

3           2. *Personnel*- The DOH, in coordination with CSC, shall include the human  
4           resources needed to run and manage the Regional Specialty Centers.

5           SEC. 5. *Tax Exemptions.* - All donations, contributions or endowments which  
6           may be made by entities or persons to the Regional Specialty Centers for their benefit  
7           shall be exempt from income and gift taxes. The importation of medical equipment to  
8           be used by the Regional Specialty Centers shall likewise be exempt from import duties,  
9           taxes, and other fees.

10          SEC. 6. *Report to Congress.* - Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the  
11          effectivity of this Act, the executive directors of the Regional Specialty Centers shall  
12          present a report to Congress detailing the development and operational plan of said  
13          Regional Specialty Centers.

14          SEC. 7. *Sunset Review.* - As the need arises or within five (5) years after its  
15          effectivity, the Congress shall conduct a sunset review of this Act. The term 'sunset  
16          review' shall mean a systematic evaluation of the accomplishments and impact of this  
17          Act for purposes of determining remedial legislation.

18          For this purpose, the Congress shall establish a Joint Congressional Oversight  
19          Committee composed of five (5) members of each House to be appointed by the  
20          Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively.

21          SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Health shall include in the  
22          Department's program the establishment and operationalization of Regional Specialty  
23          Centers, the funding of which shall be included in the budget of DOH under  
24          the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

25          SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOH, in coordination with  
26          the specialty hospitals enumerated in Section 3 hereof, shall promulgate the rules and  
27          regulations implementing the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its  
28          effectivity.

29          SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
30          unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force  
31          and effect.

32          SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,

1 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
2 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

3 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
4 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of national circulation.

*Approved,*