

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 AUG -1 P2 59

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 979

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE GERIATRIC
MEDICAL CENTER, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"SENIOR CITIZENS' HOSPITAL", AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that *"The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."*

According to a 2018 study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the Philippines is on its way to becoming an "ageing society" in 2032. This means that by 2032, Filipinos aged 65 years old and older will make up 7% of our country's total population. In 2069, this figure will go up to 14%, making the Philippines an "aged society."¹

¹ <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1843.pdf>

With the increasing ageing population, it is high time that the government initiate the establishment of the Philippine Geriatric Medical Center, an envisioned world-class tertiary hospital specializing on the needs of the elderly, our so-called "senior citizens".

Furthermore, in order to spread more widely the benefits of our specialized care, this Senior Citizens' Hospital is proposed to be established in Norther Mindanao, either in the City of Cagayan de Oro or the Province of Misamis Oriental.

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


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III



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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
2 *“Philippine Geriatric Medical Center Act” or the “Senior Citizens’*
3 *Hospital Act”.*

4
5 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy
6 of the State to protect and promote the right to health of older persons
7 by ensuring that health services are available and accessible to them
8 through the establishment of a tertiary specialty hospital that will cater
9 to their medical needs.

10
11 **SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:
12

- 1 a) *Geriatric health services* refer to the medical services or
2 intervention provided by a multi-disciplinary team usually
3 headed by a Geriatrician;
4
5 b) *Geriatrician* refers to a medical doctor who has passed the
6 necessary training and examination, and specializes in the
7 field of Geriatrics;
8
9 c) *Geriatrics* refers to the sub-specialty of Internal Medicine
10 that aims to promote health, and to prevent and treat
11 disabilities of older adults;
12
13 d) *Senior citizens or older persons* refer to Filipino citizens
14 who are at least sixty (60) years old.
15

16 **SEC. 4.** *Establishment and the Location of the Philippine*
17 *Geriatric Medical Center.* – There shall be established a tertiary
18 specialty hospital for geriatrics in the City of Cagayan de Oro or the
19 Province of Misamis Oriental to be known as the Philippine Geriatric
20 Medical Center (PGMC) or the Senior Citizens’ Hospital. It shall be
21 authorized to operate a two hundred (200) bed capacity hospital
22 dedicated to senior citizens or older persons.
23

24 **SEC. 5.** *Board of Trustees.* – The PGMC shall be administered
25 by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be
26 composed of seven (7) members to be appointed by the President of the
27 Philippines.
28

29 The seven (7) appointive members of the Board of Trustees shall
30 serve for a period of four (4) years and until their successors shall have
31 been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled
32 by appointment by the President of the Philippines, and the appointee
33 shall serve for the unexpired term. The Board of Trustees of the PGMC
34 shall elect a Chairman from among themselves, who shall be the
35 presiding officer of the Board of Trustees.
36

1 The Medical Director shall act as the chief executive officer of
2 the PGMC, with authority, among others, to appoint, remove, and fix
3 the compensation of the personnel thereof, subject to the approval of
4 the Board of Trustees.

5
6 Four (4) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a
7 quorum to transact business and any decision of such 4 members on
8 any matter duly presented to the Board of Trustees shall constitute a
9 valid and binding act of the PGMC.

10
11 **SEC. 6. Objectives.** – The PGMC shall have the following
12 objectives:

- 13
14 a) To construct, operate, administer and maintain an
15 integrated medical institution, which shall specialize in
16 geriatric health services;
17
18 b) To provide and maintain quality, affordable and timely
19 hospital care which prioritizes the need of the elderly and
20 the indigent citizens;
21
22 c) To assist in the education and training of geriatricians,
23 nurses, health officers, social workers, and other medical
24 and technical personnel in the practical and scientific
25 implementation of health services to the older persons; and
26
27 d) To facilitate and encourage the dissemination of
28 information on the prevention, treatment and control of
29 age-related diseases.

30
31 **Section 7. Powers.** - For the attainment of the objectives, the
32 PGMC, as a body corporate, acting through its Board of Trustees shall
33 have all the powers pertaining to a juridical person, and is therefore
34 authorized, among other things:

- 35
36 a) To adopt a set of by-laws, rules and regulations not
37 inconsistent with law and the provisions hereof to govern

1 the administration and operation of the affairs of the
2 PGMC;

3
4 b) Formulate and develop programs for the enhancement of
5 healthcare services for older persons, including the training
6 of PGMC geriatricians, resident doctors, nurses, health
7 officers, social workers, and other medical and technical
8 personnel;

9
10 c) Enter into such agreements and arrangements with other
11 medical institutions, domestic or foreign, as may be
12 necessary, in attaining the objectives of the PGMC;

13
14 d) To acquire and hold in any manner property of whatever
15 nature or description, and to dispose of such property under
16 any mode of encumbrance or conveyance;

17
18 e) To solicit and receive donations, endowments and funds in
19 the form of contributions, whether in cash or in kind, from
20 both the public and private sectors;

21
22 f) To invite foreign geriatricians and similar experts in the
23 various medical fields not available in the country in order
24 to train the personnel or trainees or residents of PGMC;

25
26 g) To send the personnel of the PGMC to research institutes,
27 medical institutes or universities for advance training or
28 observation and to attend international or regional
29 conventions, conferences, congresses, seminars as the
30 Board may deem necessary to accomplish the objectives of
31 the PGMC; and

32
33 h) To do all such other acts and things as may be necessary
34 or incidental for the accomplishment of the objectives of
35 the PGMC.
36

1 **SEC. 8. *Program for Indigents.*** – The Board shall ensure that the
2 PGMC shall adopt and enforce a program for indigents. The number of
3 beds allocated for the indigent patients shall not be less than fifty
4 percent (50%) of the total number of hospital beds.

5
6 **SEC. 9. *Tax Exemptions.*** – Any donation, bequest and grant shall
7 be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as
8 allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor in accordance
9 with the provisions of the *National Internal Revenue Code of 1997*, as
10 amended.

11
12 The PGMC is hereby declared exempt from all income and all
13 other internal revenue taxes, tariff, and customs duties and all other
14 kinds of taxes, fees, charges, and amendments levied by the
15 government and its political subdivisions, agencies, and
16 instrumentalities.

17
18 **SEC. 10. *Assistance from Government Offices.*** - The PGMC may
19 call upon any bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the
20 government, including government-owned or controlled corporations,
21 for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of its purposes and
22 objectives.

23
24 All individuals, entities and institutions are hereby enjoined to
25 render full assistance and cooperation to PGMC in the accomplishment
26 of its objectives and activities.

27
28 **SEC. 11. *Auditing.*** - The books and accounts of the PGMC shall
29 be under the charge of a Resident Auditor, subject to periodic auditing
30 by the Chairman of the Commission on Audit, or his duly authorized
31 representative.

32
33 **SEC. 12. *Annual Report.*** - The PGMC shall render to the
34 President of the Philippines an annual report of its activities and
35 recommendations.

1 **SEC. 13. *Effect of Dissolution.*** - If, for any reason the PGMC is
2 dissolved, its property remaining at the time of such dissolution shall
3 revert to the Philippine Government for dissolution in accordance with
4 law.

5
6 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of Health shall
7 immediately include in the Department’s programs the implementation
8 of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
9 Appropriations Act.

10
11 **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty
12 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination
13 with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the
14 Department of Budget and Management, shall promulgate such rules
15 and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

16
17 **SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision or part of
18 this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions
19 and parts hereof, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones,
20 shall remain in full force and effect.

21
22 **SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders,
23 proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are
24 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
25 accordingly.

26
27 **SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
28 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
29 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,