

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



23 JAN 23 P12 :01

SENATE
S.B. No. 1722

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT
PROMOTING PLASMA DONATION AND COLLECTION,
ESTABLISHING PLASMA BANKS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*"

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a devastating toll on human health and lives, not only in the Philippines, but also worldwide. Health practitioners all over the world have been trying various cures for COVID-19, including convalescent plasma therapy. It is a treatment which uses the antibodies of coronavirus survivors to boost the immune systems of those critically ill.

Studies show that convalescent plasma may be used as a treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening infections and people who have been determined by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening disease.

This bill, thus, seeks to promote the donation and collection of convalescent plasma which is vital for the recovery of immunocompromised patients. Further, it aims to establish plasma banks within one (1) year after the effectivity of the Act which will aid the speedy recovery of immunocompromised patients and prevent loss of more lives.

Given the abovementioned circumstances, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

IMEE R. MARCOS

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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 “*Plasma Donation and*
2 *Collection Act*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall protect and promote the right to
5 health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Studies show that
6 the use of antibodies of coronavirus survivors can be used as treatment for patients
7 with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, and people who
8 have been determined by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to
9 severe or life-threatening disease. Towards these ends, the State shall promote the
10 donation and collection of convalescent plasma.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Plasma Donation and Collection.** – The government, through the
13 Department of Health (DOH), shall promote the donation and collection of
14 convalescent plasma or plasma from COVID-19 recovered patients. *Provided that,*
15 *such recovered patients shall qualify the eligibility criteria, as may be determined by*
16 *DOH, for collection and donation of plasma. Provided further that,* such collection,
17 storage, and all activities in relation to the procedure be coordinated at the national
18 level through effective organization and integrated blood supply networks.

19
20 **SEC. 4. Establishment of Plasma Banks.** – One (1) year after the effectivity of
21 this Act, all hospitals, private and public, shall have a facility where plasma can be
22 collected and stored. All hospitals with existing plasma storage facilities and capable
23 of collecting and storing plasma shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions
24 of this Act.
25

1 **SEC. 5. *Proper Safeguards and Handling.*** – To guarantee the integrity of the
2 plasma and other blood products, that shall be collected, all plasma banks, as
3 accredited by DOH, shall ensure that all plasma and other blood products collected
4 have been labeled accordingly, tested and found to be negative of blood transmissible
5 diseases, and observed an established chain of custody, according to acceptable
6 standards.

7
8 **SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to initially implement the
9 provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the
10 DOH. Thereafter, such sums, as may be needed, for its continued implementation
11 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

12
13 The DOH shall provide technical and financial support to hospitals under the
14 supervision of local government units in the setting-up and maintenance of the plasma
15 banks.

16
17 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
18 effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
19 implementation of this Act.

20
21 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
22 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
23 repealed or modified accordingly.

24
25 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
26 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
27 remain in force and effect.

28
29 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
30 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
31 general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,