




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

'18 FEB 21 P3:15

SENATE
SB No. 1704

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE GERIATRIC CENTER – RESEARCH AND
TRAINING INSTITUTE, DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

According to the 2010 Census of Population, there are around 6.2 million senior citizens in the country.¹ This is equivalent to 6.8% of the population.² This number of elderly Filipinos is projected to increase to 9,508,800 by 2020- a growth of 4.3% over ten years.³ By that point, the elderly sector will account for 8.6% of the Philippine population.

Senior citizens are an extremely vulnerable group. They encounter many challenges which are difficult to hurdle due to their old age. As such, they require special protection from the State. The drafters of the 1987 Constitution recognized this and included provisions on the protection of the elderly in our fundamental law.

Health status is one of the major issues faced by the elderly. Dr. Clarita Carlos of the University of the Philippines wrote the following in the Philippine Social Sciences Review: “A third issue is the health status of the elderly. As people age, their health status bodies undergo changes which can make them less resistant to chronic, debilitating and disabling conditions. Consequently, the elderly tend to be more at high risk of developing disabilities and contracting diseases.”⁴

This bill seeks to improve the health support services for senior citizens by establishing the Philippine Geriatric Center – Research and Training Institute (PGC-RTI). Under this bill, the PGC-RTI shall be mandated to:

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority. 2016 *Philippine Statistical Yearbook*.

² *Ibid*.

³ Author’s own computation based on 2016 *Philippine Statistical Yearbook*

⁴ Carlos, C.R. “Concerns of the Elderly in the Philippines” *Philippine Social Sciences Review* Vol. 56, No. 1-4: 1999

- a. Equip, maintain, administer, and operate an integrated medical institution which shall specialize in geriatric health services;
- b. Promote medical and scientific research/database relative to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and relief of disease of older persons;
- c. Provide education and training of physicians, nurses, officers, social workers, barangay health workers, and other medical and technical personnel in the practice and scientific implementation of health services to older persons; *and*
- d. Coordinate the various efforts and activities of other government agencies and local government units for the purpose of achieving a more effective approach to the delivery of geriatric health.

In view of the foregoing, speedy approval of this measure is eagerly sought. This bill is a counterpart to House Bill No. 6448 filed by Senior Citizens Party List Representative Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay.


GRACE POE





SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

'18 FEB 21 P3 :14

SENATE
SB No. 1704

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE GERIATRIC CENTER – RESEARCH AND
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PURPOSES

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 “*Philippine Geriatric*
2 *Center Act*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 protect and promote the right of senior citizens to enjoy the highest attainable standard of
6 health. It shall ensure that quality health services are available and accessible to them
7 through the establishment of a specialized hospital that will cater to their medical needs.

8
9 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms
10 shall be defined as follows:

- 11
12 a) “*Senior Citizen*” – refers to any Filipino citizen who is at least
13 sixty (60) years old;
14
15 b) “*Geriatrics*” – refers to the branch of medicine that deals with the
16 biological and physical characteristics of aging, and the diagnosis
17 and treatment of diseases and problems specific to senior citizens;
18
19 c) “*Geriatric Health Services*” – refers to the medical services or
20 intervention provided to senior citizens by a multi-specialty team
21 usually headed by a Geriatrician;
22

- 1 d) “*Geriatrician*” – refers to a medical doctor who is specially
2 trained to evaluate and manage the unique healthcare needs and
3 treatment preferences of older people, and has passed the
4 necessary training and examination to specialize in the field
5 geriatrics;
6
7 e) “*Integrated Delivery of Geriatric Health Services*” – refers to
8 hospital and community-based medical and psychological services
9 provided to senior citizens by a multi-disciplinary team; *and*
10
11 f) “*Multi-Disciplinary Team*” – refers to a team composed of health
12 professionals with varied expertise to provide holistic care, which
13 includes a range of interventions to address medical and psycho-
14 social problems of senior citizens. The team is headed by a
15 Geriatrician and includes surgeons, organ-system specialists,
16 nurses, clinical pharmacists, rehabilitation therapists, nutritionists,
17 dentists, social workers, caregivers, family members, and patients
18 themselves.
19

20 **SEC. 4.** *Philippine Geriatric Center – Research and Training Institute (PGC-RTI).*

21 The National Center for Geriatric Health (NCGH) located in San Miguel, Manila, is
22 hereby renamed to Philippine Geriatric Center – Research and Training Institute (PGC-
23 RTI) and institutionalized as an independent Level 1, Fifty (50) bed-capacity budgetary
24 hospital under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health for the
25 benefit of senior citizens and older persons. The Philippine Geriatric Center – Research
26 and Training Institute (PGC-RTI) shall have a separate line item under the General
27 Appropriations Act (GAA) of the DOH.
28

29 **SEC. 5.** *Purposes and Objectives.* – The PGC-RTI shall have the following
30 purposes and objectives:
31

- 32 e. Equip, maintain, administer, and operate an integrated medical
33 institution which shall specialize in geriatric health services;
34
35 f. Promote medical and scientific research/database relative to the
36 prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and relief of
37 disease of older persons;
38
39 g. Provide education and training of physicians, nurses, officers,
40 social workers, barangay health workers, and other medical and
41 technical personnel in the practice and scientific implementation
42 of health services to older persons; *and*
43
44

- 1 h. Coordinate the various efforts and activities of other government
2 agencies and local government units for the purpose of achieving
3 a more effective approach to the delivery of geriatric health.
4

5 **SEC. 6. *Scope of Services.*** – Consistent with its purpose and objectives, the PGC-
6 RTI shall provide the following services:
7

- 8 a. Hospital-based services to ensure the availability of medical facilities
9 and equipment necessary to provide long term and palliative services,
10 with its wards divided into the following: dementia, long-term care,
11 palliative care, respite care, and other units as may be deemed
12 necessary;
13
- 14 b. Community-based services and programs in partnership with local
15 government units. Research and necessary training shall be conducted
16 for the social functioning of senior citizens and their families,
17 utilizing the multi-disciplinary team approaches, and external
18 outsourcing of resources may be done as needed to implement
19 community based integrated geriatric health services;
20
- 21 c. Education programs to pursue excellence and the highest level of
22 practice in the specialized field of geriatrics and other related fields,
23 including but not limited to post-graduate training and short-term
24 courses for medical doctors and allied medical professionals; *and*
25
- 26 d. Program development and research to develop cutting edge research
27 and programs to combat diseases of old age and to improve health
28 care services for senior citizens.
29

30 **SEC. 7. *Referral System.*** – The PGC-RTI shall be the referral center for all Private
31 and Government Facilities for specialized geriatric care.
32

33 **SEC. 8. *Administration.*** – The Department of Health through the Health Facilities
34 Development Bureau (HFDB) shall assume oversight of the PGC-RTI, and promulgate the
35 rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.
36

37 The DOH shall approve the organizational and staffing pattern of the PGC-RTI
38 subject to the evaluation by the Civil Service Commission and of the Organizational
39 Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and
40 Management. The DOH may reorganize said structure, modify staffing pattern, and create
41 or abolish divisions, sections or units in the PCG-RTI.
42

43 **SEC. 9. *Appointment and Disciplining Authority of the Secretary of Health.*** – The
44 DOH Secretary shall have the authority to appoint, promote, transfer, remove, suspend, or

1 otherwise discipline the officers of the PGC-RTI up to the level of Director, as well as to
2 remove or dismiss all other officials and employees of PGC-RTI, subject to Civil Service
3 laws, rules and regulations.
4

5 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** – The budget allocation for PGC-RTI shall be in
6 accordance with its scope of work and mandate as stated herein. The amount of Three
7 Hundred Million (Php 300,000,000) is hereby appropriated for the initial operation and
8 maintenance of the PGC-RTI. Thereafter, the PGC-RTI shall submit its annual budget
9 proposal to the DOH Central Office duly approved by the Secretary of Health as well as
10 by the Department of Budget and Management, which will form part of the budget of the
11 DOH as reflected in the General Appropriations Act.
12

13 **SEC. 11. Program for Indigents.** – The DOH shall ensure that the PGC-RTI shall
14 adopt and enforce an effective program for indigents. The number of beds allocated for the
15 indigent patients shall not be less than forty percent (40%) of the total number of hospital
16 beds.
17

18 **SEC. 12. Increase of Bed Capacity.** – The Medical Director may increase the bed
19 capacity of PGC-RTI upon compliance with the guidelines of the Department of Health
20 and Department of Budget and Management concerning bed capacity.
21

22 **SEC. 13. Income Retention.** – The PGC-RTI shall be authorized to retain its
23 earnings from its operations for the improvement of its service delivery.
24

25 **SEC. 14. Tax Exemption and Other Privileges.** – The provisions of any general or
26 special law to the contrary notwithstanding, all donations, grants, contributions, gifts,
27 endowments, received by the PGC-RTI pursuant hereto, shall be exempt from income,
28 donor's, and all other kinds of taxes, and shall be further considered as allowable
29 deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the
30 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.
31

32 The PGC-RTI is hereby declared exempt from all income and all other internal
33 revenue taxes, tariffs and customs duties and all other kinds of taxes, fees, charges and
34 assessments levied by the government and its political subdivisions, agencies and
35 instrumentalities.
36

37 The PGC-RTI may request and receive assistance from the different agencies,
38 bureaus, offices or instrumentalities of the government, including the Philippine Charity
39 Sweepstakes Office and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation in pursuit of its
40 purposes and objectives.
41

42 **SEC. 15. Annual Report.** – The PGC-RTI shall submit an annual report to the
43 President of the Philippines, the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and the

1 House Committee on Health, on its activities, accomplishments and recommendations, to
2 better improve the delivery of geriatric health services.

3
4
5 **SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** – Within ninety (90) days
6 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health, in coordination with the Secretary
7 of Social Welfare and Development and the Secretary of Budget and Management, shall
8 promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.
9

10 **SEC. 17. *Transitory Provisions.*** – In accomplishing the acts of organization herein
11 prescribed, the following transitory provisions shall be complied with:

- 12
13 a. The Medical Director of the PGC-RTI shall be a specialized geriatric
14 practitioner and shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health.
15
16 b. The existing personnel of the NCGH shall remain in their current
17 positions until such time a revised and/or new organizational and
18 staffing pattern is implemented.
19
20 c. The Health Facilities Development Bureau of the Department of
21 Health shall ensure that no disruption of service will occur during
22 transition.
23

24 **SEC. 18. *Seperability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
25 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall
26 remain valid and subsisting.
27

28 **SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
29 order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
30 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
31

32 **SEC. 20. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its
33 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.
34

35 *Approved,*
36
37