



## SENATE

S. No. 2212

---

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY; WAYS AND MEANS; AND FINANCE WITH SENATORS ZUBIRI, ANGARA, EJERCITO, CAYETANO (P.), ESTRADA, MARCOS, GO, PADILLA, GATCHALIAN, ESCUDERO, REVILLA JR., DELA ROSA AND VILLAR (C.) AS AUTHORS THEREOF

---

AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY CENTERS IN HOSPITALS UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

*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  
2 the “Regional Specialty Centers Act”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the  
4 State to protect and promote the right to health of the  
5 people and instill health consciousness among them by  
6 making health services available, accessible, and  
7 affordable for all. Towards this end, the State shall adopt

1 an integrated and comprehensive approach to health  
2 development by providing specialized health services  
3 which shall address the medical needs of patients with  
4 diseases of a particular organ or group of organs and the  
5 healthcare needs of a particular group, such as children,  
6 women, or the elderly, and shall be available and  
7 accessible to all Filipinos to ensure equitable healthcare for  
8 all.

9       SEC. 3. *Definition of terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

10       (a) *DOH hospital* – refers to a hospital under the  
11 direct management, supervision and control of the  
12 Department of Health (DOH);

13       (b) *Specialty Center* – refers to a unit or department  
14 in a hospital that offers specialized care addressing  
15 particular conditions and providing specific procedures and  
16 management of cases requiring specialized training and  
17 equipment; and

18       (c) *National Specialty Center* – refers to a Level 3  
19 specialty or general hospital with the highest level of  
20 expertise in clinical services, teaching, training, research,

1 and is the country's end-referral facility for a given medical  
2 specialty as designated by the DOH.

3       SEC. 4. *Specialty Centers.* – The DOH shall establish  
4 specialty centers in DOH hospitals identified by the DOH  
5 in every region. The DOH, in coordination with the  
6 National Specialty Centers, shall ensure that specialty  
7 centers in DOH hospitals have expert personnel and  
8 medical specialists provided with necessary training, and  
9 appropriate specialist equipment. The DOH shall prioritize  
10 funding for capital outlay investment for specialty centers  
11 through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program and  
12 other fund sources.

13       The DOH, in coordination with the Department of  
14 Budget and Management, shall develop and implement the  
15 staffing pattern and standards for specialty centers.

16       SEC. 5. *Criteria for the Establishment of Specialty*  
17 *Centers.* – The establishment of specialty centers in DOH  
18 hospitals shall adhere to the guidelines set by the DOH on

1 planning and prioritizing health facilities based on, but not  
2 limited to, the following criteria:

3 (a) Evidence of the health needs and demands,  
4 including disease burdens, in the catchment population of  
5 the DOH hospital, in consultation with concerned  
6 stakeholders;

7 (b) Service capability of the hospital and geographic  
8 or physical access;

9 (c) Appropriate level of specialized healthcare  
10 provider role in the continuum of care, including roles of  
11 the DOH hospitals as referral for healthcare provider  
12 networks;

13 (d) Availability of competent health human resources  
14 for specialized healthcare; and

15 (e) Operational and financial performance of the DOH  
16 hospital, including accreditation to avail of specialized  
17 healthcare packages from the Philippine Health Insurance  
18 Corporation.

19 *SEC. 6. Responsibilities of National Specialty Centers. –*

20 The National Specialty Centers, including, but not limited

1 to, the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and  
2 Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines,  
3 Philippine Children's Medical Center and Philippine  
4 Cancer Center, shall have the following responsibilities:

5 (a) Serve as the core information hub for their  
6 respective specializations and diseases they cover, in  
7 coordination with the DOH;

8 (b) Lead in the development of policies, protocols,  
9 and standards for the particular specialty and shall have  
10 the highest level of clinical services and training capability;

11 (c) Provide scientific leadership by conducting  
12 specialized clinical, public health, and operations research  
13 with multidisciplinary or multi-center approach;

14 (d) Provide specialty training and technical  
15 assistance, in collaboration with the DOH, to specialty  
16 centers in DOH hospitals to ensure delivery of quality  
17 services and strengthen the network of care across the  
18 country for a particular specialty; and

1           (e) Conduct capacity and capability assessment of  
2 the services provided by specialty centers in DOH hospitals  
3 for a particular specialty.

4           SEC. 7. *Medical Specialists and Experts.* – The  
5 National Specialty Centers are hereby authorized to  
6 contract the services of individuals deemed as medical  
7 specialists or experts to provide specialty training and  
8 technical assistance to specialty centers in DOH hospitals.  
9 Specialty centers in DOH hospitals may also send medical,  
10 allied medical and other necessary personnel to the  
11 National Specialty Centers for training and capacity  
12 development.

13           SEC. 8. *Implementation.* – Within five (5) years upon  
14 the enactment of this Act, the DOH shall establish at least  
15 one (1) specialty center in every region based on the top  
16 burden of disease and special needs in the area: *Provided,*  
17 That the DOH shall also give particular focus on  
18 establishing heart, lung, and kidney centers which shall  
19 replicate the capabilities of the National Specialty Centers  
20 in the National Capital Region.

1           SEC. 9. *Philippine Health Facility Development Plan*  
2     (*PHFDP*). – The DOH shall include the plans for the  
3     establishment of specialty centers in DOH hospitals in the  
4     PHFDP, which serves as a guide for investments funded by  
5     the national government to rationalize the distribution of  
6     capacity and capability of health facilities.

7           SEC. 10. *Report to Congress*. – DOH hospitals with  
8     specialty centers established under this Act shall provide  
9     the DOH and the Congress, through the Committee on  
10    Health of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
11    on Health and Demography of the Senate, an annual  
12    report of its activities, accomplishments, and operational  
13    plans.

14          SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. –  
15    Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the  
16    DOH, in consultation with the National Specialty Centers,  
17    DOH hospitals, and other concerned agencies, shall  
18    promulgate the implementing rules and regulations and  
19    guidelines necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1           SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for  
2 the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged  
3 against the current year’s appropriation of the DOH.  
4 Thereafter, the DOH shall include in the Department’s  
5 program the establishment and operationalization of the  
6 specialty centers in DOH hospitals, the funding of which  
7 shall be included in the budget of the DOH under the  
8 annual General Appropriations Act.

9           SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision  
10 herein be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other  
11 provisions hereof that are not affected thereby shall  
12 continue to be in full force and effect.

13           SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders,  
14 rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts  
15 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
16 repealed or modified accordingly.

17           SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after  
18 fifteen (15) days from its publication in the *Official Gazette*  
19 or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,