

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
House Bill No. 539

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE


It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and as such it shall endeavor to cultivate and maintain an environment conducive to the practice of pre-hospital emergency care, maximizing the capability and potential of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and other pre-hospital care professionals in the country, and institute a standard system of pre-hospital emergency medical services for the country.

This bill seeks to establish a standard system for pre-hospital emergency care to maximize the capabilities of emergency medical technicians and other pre-hospital care professionals in order to save Filipino lives. Further, since the Philippines is the second most globally vulnerable to hazards brought about by climate change, as well as other natural and man-made hazards, our citizens need a more responsive and organized pre-hospital and emergency care system.

Emergency medical services are crucial in avoiding complications before hospital service is available. In recognition of its significance in saving lives, this bill proposes the creation of the National Pre-Hospital Care Council (NPHCC), to ensure the development of a pre-hospital emergency service system at the national and local level. The NHPCC shall formulate and implement policies, develop national standards and protocols, engage in research, including emerging technology, emergency education and training, formulation of curricula and the evaluation of existing courses and assessment and examination procedures. It shall develop the scope of work of EMTs based on internationally accepted standards, subject to the requirements of a nationally based licensure examination.

The bill also provides that all emergency medical vehicles will adhere to NPHCC certification guidelines or be removed from use. Furthermore, the proposed measure seeks the adoption of a national emergency number, under the purview of the National Telecommunication Council, to enable immediate public access to emergency medical services.

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

  
**VICTOR A. YAP**  
Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Tarlac

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. \_\_\_ 539

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Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

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AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING A PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE  
SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, SUPERVISION AND  
REGULATION OF THE PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE PROFESSION,  
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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3 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and  
5 promote the right to health of the people. Pursuant to this policy, the government shall endeavor to  
6 cultivate and maintain an environment conducive to the practice of pre-hospital emergency care,  
7 maximize the capability and potential of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and other pre-  
8 hospital care professionals and institute a standard system of pre-hospital emergency medical  
9 services in the country.

10 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** – In support of State policy, this Act:

11 (a) Mandates the development and institutionalization of a pre-hospital emergency medical service  
12 system at the national and local levels;

13 (b) Creates a National Pre-Hospital Care Council;

14 (c) Establishes a national standard for the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical services by  
15 duly certified/registered pre-hospital care professionals;

16 (d) Mandates the supervision and regulation of the practice of pre-hospital care professionals;

17 (e) Mandates the standardization of the training of pre-hospital care professionals;

18 (f) Prescribes certification, registration and recertification requirements of pre-hospital care  
19 professionals;

20 (g) Establishes standards for the design, manufacture, accreditation and regulation of emergency  
21 medical vehicles;

22 (h) Mandates the adoption and use of a National Universal Emergency Telephone Number; and

1 (i) Establishes support services to pre-hospital emergency medical services.

2 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

3 (a) Accredited training institutions refer to organizations authorized to offer training programs,  
4 courses and continuing education in emergency medical services for pre-hospital care professionals  
5 that meet the standards established by the National Pre-Hospital Care Council, hereinafter referred  
6 to as the Council created under this Act, in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills  
7 Development Authority (TESDA), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the  
8 Department of Health (DOH), among others, and are duly recognized by the TESDA or the  
9 CHED, as applicable, and duly registered in good standing with the Council;

10 (b) Ambulance refers to an emergency medical vehicle for transporting sick or injured people to,  
11 from or between places of treatment for an illness or injury, and are equipped and manned to, in  
12 some instances, provide medical care to the patient;

13 (c) Competency-based assessment refers to evidence gathering and judgment by an authorized  
14 assessor who evaluates the technical and practical skills, abilities and knowledge of a pre-hospital  
15 care professional in accordance with the standards and guidelines established by the Council, in  
16 coordination with the TESDA, in the case of one who holds a technical non-degree Certified  
17 Emergency Medical Technician course under the TESDA; or in coordination with the CHED and  
18 the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in the case of one who holds a Registered  
19 Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (REMT-P) degree course requiring the issuance of a  
20 professional license;

21 (d) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Director refers to a licensed physician with training  
22 in emergency medicine and with at least five (5) years experience in emergency medical care as  
23 certified by the Council or the local medical authority charged with the supervision of EMS, and  
24 adequate training and experience in the standard emergency medical treatment protocols set by the  
25 Council;

26 (e) National Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Treatment Protocols refer to emergency medical  
27 procedures outlining approved clinical practices and therapies to be observed by pre-hospital care  
28 professionals, as established by the Council created under Section 5 hereof;

29 (f) Pre-hospital care professionals refer to:

30 (1) Emergency Medical Technician – a pre-hospital emergency care provider who has fulfilled the  
31 requirements of and continues to hold the qualifications established by the Council, in coordination  
32 with the TESDA, the CHED and the PRC, among others;

33 (2) Registered Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (REMT-P) – a pre-hospital emergency  
34 care provider who is capable of performing extensive pre-hospital care services such as  
35 administering medications orally and intravenously, interpreting electrocardiograms (ECGs) tracings,  
36 performing endotracheal intubations and using monitors and other complex equipment. A REMT-P  
37 is required to maintain the qualifications and fulfill the requirements set by the Council;

38 (3) Ambulance Dispatch Officer – a person duly trained and certified in the administration,  
39 management and operation of the ambulance dispatch and communication system and who has  
40 fulfilled the requirements and who continues to hold the qualifications established by the Council, in  
41 coordination with the TESDA, the CHED and the PRC, among others;

42 (4) Ambulance Assistant – a person who, having gained the minimum certification as a Medical First  
43 Responder (Advanced First Aider), is charged with the operation and general care of emergency

