

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 609

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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by **HON. SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, M.D.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill, which was previously filed in the 16th Congress and approved in the committee level, seeks to establish the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center (Blood Center) which shall offer comprehensive care for patients with blood disorders and provide transfusion services to the Filipino people.

The Blood Center is envisioned to provide the Filipino people with the latest and best in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of hematologic disorders. It shall embark on research regarding hematologic disorders and shall serve as a referral laboratory center for all hematologic diseases.

Republic Act No. 7719 or the National Blood Services Act of 1994, and the consequent strengthening of voluntary blood services nationwide, came on the heels of unprecedented need for blood and blood products secondary to inevitable epidemiologic shift towards rising incidence of dengue fever and its hemorrhagic forms, the increasing threat of HIV, and other blood borne infections. RA 7719 is aligned with the national goal of drastically reducing maternal deaths through the assurance of adequate supply of blood.

The creation of the Blood Center will complement RA 7719. It will be a government corporate institution under the direct supervision of the Department of Health for purposes of policy direction and control.

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

Sandra Y. Eriguel

SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, M.D.
Second District, La Union

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Introduced by **HON. SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, M.D.**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BLOOD DISEASE AND TRANSFUSION
CENTER, DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center Act.”

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. *Apheresis Facility* shall refer to a blood service facility where blood collection procedure is done in which whole blood is removed, a selected component separated, and the remainder returned to the donor.
- b. *Blood* shall refer to the human blood for transfusion.
- c. *Blood Center* shall refer to the Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center established pursuant to this Act.
- d. *Blood Component* shall refer, but not limited, to whole blood, red cells, granulocytes, plasma, platelets, cryoprecipitate and cryosupemate prepared in the Blood Center.

- e. *Blood Disease* shall refer to a blood condition that involves problems with the red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, blood vessels, bone marrow, lymph nodes, spleen, or other proteins involved in bleeding and clotting (hemostasis and thrombosis). Blood diseases and blood disorders are used interchangeably in this Act.
- f. *Blood Product* shall refer to a therapeutic substance derived from whole blood or plasma.
- g. *Blood Transfusion* shall refer to the process of transferring blood or blood-based products from one person into the circulatory system of another.
- h. *Hematology* shall refer to the branch of medicine that is concerned with the study of blood, the blood-forming organs and blood diseases.
- i. *Voluntary Blood Donor* shall refer to a donor who gives blood freely and voluntarily without any form of payment.

SEC. 3. Mandate. – There is hereby established a Philippine Blood Disease and Transfusion Center, hereinafter referred to as the Blood Center, a government corporate entity that will offer comprehensive care for patients with blood diseases, including blood transfusion services, for public welfare. The Blood Center shall also undertake teaching programs and research activities to successfully accomplish its mandate.

SEC. 4. Purposes and Objectives. – The Blood Center shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a. To construct, establish, operate and maintain a specialty hospital, with at least two hundred fifty (250) bed capacity, which shall offer comprehensive care for patients with blood diseases;
- b. To establish and operate a blood transfusion center and a state-of-the-art hematology laboratory (which should be able to offer more services than a regular medical center), including a molecular laboratory for public welfare;
- c. To establish and operate a Hematopoietic Stem Cell transplant program and donor registry;
- d. To collect blood from qualified voluntary blood donors, and process whole blood into blood components;
- e. To ensure the safety, as well as the adequate supply, of blood and blood products delivered to hospitals and other health facilities;

- f. To promote, encourage and engage in medical and scientific research on the prevention and treatment of blood diseases, and on the proper operation of blood bank technology and blood transfusion services to ensure the safety of both blood donors and donees;
- g. To gather, compile and publish the findings of its medical and scientific researches;
- h. To conduct studies and develop teaching programs, in collaboration with universities, hospitals and/or research institutions, on the prevention and treatment of blood diseases; encourage and grant scholarships for advanced training and specialization in hematology; and support educational programs of value to general public health;
- i. To finance, sponsor, hold or participate in congresses, conventions, conferences, seminars, workshops and training programs on the prevention and treatment of blood diseases; and
- j. To encourage and assist in the education and training of physicians, nurses, health officers, social workers and medical and technical personnel in the practical and scientific implementation of services to patients with blood diseases.

Sec. 5. Powers and Functions. – The Blood Center shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. To have the attribute of perpetual succession and shall be vested with the powers of a corporation;
- b. To adopt and use a corporate seal which shall be a matter of judicial notice;
- c. To enter into contracts with any person or entity, whether public or private, domestic or foreign;
- d. To own, possess, and/or acquire assets, real or personal, or any interest therein, and encumber or otherwise dispose the same, under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance, as it may deem proper and necessary in the conduct of its business;
- e. To invest its excess funds, subject to applicable laws, rules and regulations, in any activity related to the Blood Center, as well as in any bonds or securities issued and guaranteed by the Government of the Philippines;
- f. To collect reasonable fees from the public for its services;
- g. To solicit and accept any gifts, contributions, endowments, grants, bequests and devices of any kind of real or personal property which are necessary and proper for the attainment of the purpose of the hospital; and

- h. To perform such acts and exercise such functions as may be necessary and proper for the attainment of the purposes and objectives herein specified.

Sec. 6. Board of Trustees. – The affairs and business of the Blood Center shall be directed, its properties managed, and its corporate powers exercised, unless otherwise provided in this Charter, by its own Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of seven (7) members, as follows:

- a. The Secretary of the Department of Health as Chairman of the Board, or his duly authorized representative;
- b. The Department of Health Undersecretary in charge of supervising specialty hospitals;
- c. One (1) member from the private sector, preferably with experience in finance, administration or management;
- d. One (1) representative who is an expert in hematology;
- e. One (1) representative who is an expert in blood transfusion;
- f. One (1) representative from an NGO involved in health advocacy; and
- g. The Blood Center Executive Director.

The terms of office, manner of appointment of the trustees and other matters pertaining to the governance of the Blood Center shall be determined in accordance with the pertinent provisions of RA 10149, otherwise known as the “GOCC Governance Act of 2011”.

Sec. 7. Powers and Functions of the Board. – The Board of Trustees, which shall be the policy-making body of the Blood Center, shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Set the policies and direction of the Blood Center in order to accomplish its mandate;
- b. Adopt a set of by-laws, rules, regulations, guidelines and procedures consistent with existing laws and the provisions hereof to govern the administration and operation of the Blood Center;
- c. Establish the organizational structure of the Blood Center, defines the duties and responsibilities of its officials and employees, and adopt a compensation and benefit scheme, subject to the pertinent provisions of RA 10149;

