

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3726



Introduced by **Hon. Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco - Catera**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Disasters can strike anywhere and at anytime destroying everything in its path. For instance, the wrath of typhoon Yolanda did not spare even the hospitals in the areas it struck, ~~which were supposed to be among the last refuges for shelter especially for the injured victims.~~


This caught the government and other supporting organizations scrambling to put up temporary healthcare facilities to attend to the medical needs of several thousands of victims. While typhoons of such magnitude as Yolanda rarely occur, more storms and natural disasters are predicted to hit our shores again, and once more cause considerable devastation. The necessity for the government to create and develop a fleet of mobile hospitals which can quickly be deployed wherever and whenever a makeshift medical facility is needed is being highlighted during these times.

The creation of a fleet of mobile hospitals that offers specialized services and can be readily mobilized in times of disaster or be deployed in areas where there are no adequate medical facilities is highly in order.

This bill proposes the creation and institutionalization of an emergency mobile hospital to be known as the Philippine Mobile Hospital that will function mainly as an emergency healthcare facility during natural disasters. During normal times, it shall also serve as a roving mobile hospital in areas with no hospitals or adequate hospital services.

~~The end~~ goal of this bill, however, shall be to ultimately provide each region of our country with a number of mobile hospitals which shall move around provinces to augment ~~existing medical facilities~~ in remote and underserved areas throughout the country.

In view of the foregoing consideration, the approval of this bill is strongly recommended.


TRICIA NICOLE Q. VELASCO - CATERA

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**AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE MOBILE HOSPITAL, DEFINING ITS
PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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 Mobile Hospital Act of 2016*”.

SEC. 2. *Establishment of the Philippine Mobile Hospital.* — There shall be established, ~~under the direct~~ supervision of the Department of Health, a mobile hospital to be known as the ~~Philippine Mobile~~ Hospital, hereinafter referred to as PMH.

SEC. 3. *Purposes and Objectives.* – The PMH shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- (a) To establish, operate, manage and maintain mobile and transportable hospitals that will primarily provide free in-patient and out-patient medical services and medicines to residents in areas affected by natural and man-made disasters,
- (b) To strengthen the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System by providing emergency services and public assistance during and immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impact, ensure public safety, and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected;
- (c) To complement the country’s existing medical infrastructure by providing roving hospitals to areas with no hospitals or adequate hospital services; and

- (d) To provide the general public throughout the country with accessible and modern facilities for domiciliary health and medical services.

SEC. 4. *Mobile Hospital Board; Composition; Term and Compensation.* — To carry out the purpose and objectives enumerated in Section Three of this Act, there is hereby created the governing board of the PMH which shall be known as the Mobile Hospital Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board. It shall be composed of the Department of Health (DOH) Secretary as *ex-officio* Chairman; the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary as *ex-officio* Vice-Chairman; and the Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary as *ex-officio* Vice-chairman, respectively, and four (4) members coming from the private sector. Three (3) of the four (4) members shall be physicians, two (2) of whom shall be medical specialists while the other shall be a government recognized hospital administrator. The remaining member shall be a person of known probity in the community and is active in civic and community work.

The members of the Board shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines and shall receive no salary. The members of the Board shall be entitled to a *per diem* for every meeting actually attended subject to pertinent budget laws, rules and regulations on compensation, honoraria, and allowances. Members of the Board who are not officers of the Government shall serve for a term of four (4) years renewable for another term only.

The Board Secretary shall be appointed by the Chairman from the ranking members of the hospital staff.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* — The Board is hereby vested with the following powers and functions:

- (a) To formulate policies, develop programs, and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the purposes and objectives, as well as the powers and functions, of the PMH;
- (b) To study, propose and approve plans for the improvement of the services of the ~~PMH~~;
- (c) To propose, study and approve or, amend or revise the organizational structure of the PMH, both medical and administrative, in order to meet the exigencies of the service, subject to existing laws and regulations on the matter and consonant with the principles of sound hospital administration;
- (d) To consider and approve appointments and promotions of all staff personnel, medical and administrative, and other employees upon the recommendation of the Hospital Director;

- (e) To investigate all cases of anomalies, negligence or misconduct of all hospital personnel including the Mobile Hospital Director. It shall have the final authority to pass upon the removal, separation, and suspension of such personnel subject to Civil Service Rules and Regulations;
- (f) To perform an annual internal audit of the operations of the PMH;
- (g) To receive in trust, legacies, gifts, land grants and donations of real and personal property of all kinds, and to administer the same for the benefit of the mobile hospital or a department of service thereof;
- (h) To consider and approve the budget prepared by the mobile hospital administration for submission to the Congress of the Philippines through the Department of Budget and Management; and
- (i) To discharge such other powers, duties and functions as may be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Meeting of the Board; Quorum.* — The Board shall meet regularly once a month, but special meetings may be called either by the Chairman or by a majority of the Board, when necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. All decisions of the Board shall require the concurrence of a majority of the members present.

SEC. 7. *Board Chairman; Vice-Chairman.* — The Chairman shall call and preside over all meetings of the Board. He shall sign all papers for the Board and shall certify to all its transactions.

In the absence or the incapacity of the Chairman, the members of the Board shall elect from among themselves a temporary chairman who shall act as Chairman thereof.

SEC. 8. *The Mobile Hospital Director.* — There shall be a Mobile Hospital Director, elected by a majority vote of the Board: Provided, that the recommendee is qualified under Civil Service laws, rules and regulations. The Mobile Hospital Director shall serve until otherwise incapacitated or removed for cause and shall receive an annual salary equivalent to that of Chief of Hospital IV under the Salary Plan of the Wage and Position Classification Office. He shall have charge of the mobile hospital and shall have the powers in respect to the mobile hospital as are vested by law in chiefs of hospitals.

Specifically, the Mobile Hospital Director shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the implementation of all policies, decisions and orders of the Board;

- (b) Have immediate supervision and control over the affairs of the PMH as well as its management and administration, subject to the authority of the Board;
- (c) Subject to the approval of the Board, prepare plans for a mobile hospital residency program in the fields of medicine, surgery, pediatrics, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynecology, eye-ear-nose and throat, laboratory, radiology, and training program in nursing and allied fields;
- (d) Prepare and submit to the Board periodic reports on the state of affairs, financial conditions, budgetary requirements and other problems of the mobile hospital together with the corresponding recommendations thereon; and
- (e) Perform such other duties as the Board may from time to time direct him to do, consonant with the dignity and responsibility of the office.

SEC. 9. *Auditor.* - The Commission on Audit shall appoint, subject to the approval of the Board, a representative who shall be the Auditor of the PMH and such personnel as may be necessary to assist said representative in the performance of his duties.

~~The Auditor shall be the chief of its auditing and accounting department. He shall audit, examine and settle all accounts of the PMH according to existing laws and regulations and shall perform such other duties as the Commission on Audit, Mobile Hospital Director or the Board may require him. His compensation shall be fixed by the Board.~~

SEC 10. *Set-up and Organization.* — The PMH shall be composed of mobile and transportable hospitals equipped to act at, the very least, as Level Two (2) hospitals with added specialized services.

~~The mobile and transportable hospitals shall contain operating rooms for major and minor surgeries, multispecialty clinics (i.e., Ophthalmology, ENT Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics-Gynecology), diagnostic laboratory facilities, a pharmacy, as well as sufficient and modern on-site and off-site administrative, operational and technical support facilities.~~

The organization of the PMH shall include such departments and services as the Board may deem essential to carry on with the objectives of this Act but shall in no case be contrary to the basic organizational plans prescribed by the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services of the Department of Health, nor with principles of sound hospital administration.

SEC. 11. *Heads of Departments and Services; Compensation.* — The heads of departments and services as well as medical consultants and specialists shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the Mobile Hospital Director. Their compensations shall be prescribed by the Board but the same shall in no case be less than provided for under existing laws and regulations. All other personnel and employees of the PMH shall be appointed by the Mobile Hospital Director subject to the approval of the Board.

SEC. 12. *Mobile Hospital Trust Fund.* — All funds and money not coming from the general fund of the National Government such as contributions from taxes and assessments from authorized sweepstakes lotteries and games, donations, legacies, endowment, income of the pay wards and other mobile hospital services shall be used and disbursed only upon the authorization of the Board for the purpose of improving the mobile hospital, its facilities and services, including the purchase of medicines, supplies and equipment.

SEC. 13. *Assistance from government offices, etc.* - The PMH may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of its purposes and objectives.

All individuals, entities and institutions are hereby enjoined to render full assistance and corporation to the PMH in the accomplishment of its objectives and activities.

SEC. 14. *Report to Congress.* - The Department of Health shall report to Congress, not later than March 30 of every year following the approval of this Act, the accomplishments, operations and progress of the PMH and make the necessary recommendations, especially in connection with the expansion of the program.

SEC. 15. *Establishment of Regional Mobile Hospitals.* - In pursuance of its objective to provide access to medical facilities offering quality specialized services to each and every Filipino wherever he may be in the country, the PMH shall endeavor to establish and operate as many mobile hospitals as practicable, with at least one (1) in every region in the country.

SEC. 16. *Appropriations.* — The sum of One Hundred Twenty Million Pesos (P120,000,000.00) initially is hereby appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act. Thereafter, such sums of money as may be required to operate and maintain the PMH, based upon the recommendation of the Board, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or section of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions or sections of this Act.

SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, ordinances, regulations and orders or parts thereof as may be inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,