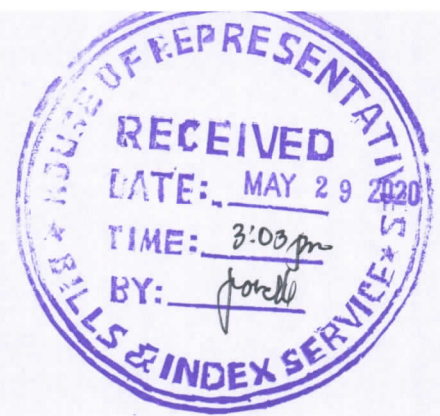




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6871



Introduced by Representative Luisa Lloren Cuaresma

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an infectious disease hospital and research center with quarantine facilities in every region around the country.

The outbreak of the pandemic disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) or COVID-19, has affected many countries globally.

On March 9, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared a state of public health emergency, as the first case of local transmission has been recorded and cases of individuals with confirmed COVID-19 continue to increase day by day. COVID-19 has so far infected more than four million people worldwide and killed more than three hundred thousand individuals. In the Philippines as of May 21, 2020, there are more than thirteen thousand confirmed cases of COVID-19, and more than eight hundred have died from the disease. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a tremendous public health crisis.

The sudden rise of COVID-19 cases, as well as the response of the government to the threat of COVID-19, exposed the lack of preparedness and

incapacity of our public health care system to effectively prevent and control epidemics and highly infectious diseases.

At present, the number of hospitals in the Philippines are not sufficient or inadequate to accommodate all COVID-19 patients. Both private and public hospitals are taking the initiative of establishing makeshift clinics where infected patients may be admitted and treated. However, there is no contingency plan in case the number of infected patients increased beyond the capacity of these makeshift clinics.

This pandemic taught us the importance of a dedicated hospital and research center catering to the treatment, prevention, control, and study of existing and emerging highly infectious diseases to prepare us for the next deadly outbreak.

The establishment of the Infectious Disease Hospital and Research Center with quarantine facilities in every region will enable the country to be better equipped and ready in times of disease outbreak or pandemic. It will also provide a faster and systematic response during the health crisis, and lessen the cases of hospitalization and death.

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


LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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HOUSE BILL NO. 6871

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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITAL AND
RESEARCH CENTER WITH QUARANTINE FACILITIES IN EVERY
REGION IN THE COUNTRY**

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Infectious
Disease Hospital and Research Center Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to improve
the delivery of health care services, protect the public from health threats, and
prevent the spread of highly contagious diseases. Towards this end, there is a
need to establish an infectious disease hospital and research center with
quarantine facilities in every region in the country that specializes in the
treatment of infectious, contagious, and communicable diseases to protect and
promote the health and well-being of the Filipino people.

1 SEC. 3. *Infectious Disease Hospital and Research Center.* – An
2 Infectious Disease Hospital and Research Center (IDHRC), under the
3 supervision and control of the Department of Health, is hereby established in
4 every region in the country. The IDHRC shall be the principal facility
5 responsible for the treatment, control, and prevention of highly communicable
6 diseases in the region. It shall specialize in the research into and treatment of
7 emerging infectious diseases and pandemic outbreaks in the country.

8 The IDHRC shall have quarantine facilities to prevent the spread of
9 emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases in accordance with the
10 international standards and guidelines set by the World Health Organization.
11 The quarantine facilities must be supplied with the necessary equipment and
12 provisions to address the needs of individuals who may be isolated or
13 quarantined for a long period of time, such as adequate food, clothing, means of
14 communications, and competent medical care.

15 SEC. 4. *Functions.* – The IDHRC shall exercise the following functions:

16 (a) Undertake research activities on the diagnosis, control, and
17 prevention of infectious diseases that are the primary causes of mortality and
18 morbidity in the country;

19 (b) Conduct clinical trials to understand and control infectious
20 diseases;

21 (c) Conduct regular training courses for medical and paramedical
22 personnel in the control of common infectious diseases in the country;

- 1 (d) Provide high-quality tertiary care for both in-patients and out-
2 patients suffering from infectious diseases included within the scope of the
3 functions of the research center;
- 4 (e) Participate in the technical cooperation program with other
5 research institutes in research activities on the diagnosis, control, and prevention
6 of infectious diseases;
- 7 (f) Accept grants and donation of funds, equipment, materials, and
8 services needed for the development of the IDHRC;
- 9 (g) Establish procedures for systematic searching, collecting, collating,
10 and analyzing information and data to identify emerging health threats in the
11 country;
- 12 (h) Provide information, expertise, advice, and risk assessment to local
13 government units in the control and prevention of infectious diseases;
- 14 (i) Formulate an early warning and response system to make available
15 information for the general public;
- 16 (j) Promote and initiate scientific studies necessary for the prevention
17 and control of infectious diseases;
- 18 (k) Ensure that the techniques in the research involving infectious
19 diseases are clearly consistent with the standards established under the
20 applicable law;
- 21 (l) Conduct surveillance and clinical researches on important
22 pathogens, including bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi, and viruses;

(m) Establish a mechanism for the dissemination and utilization of research on infectious diseases;

(n) Serve as the primary repository of all data for researches on infectious diseases; and

(o) Perform such other related activities as may be assigned by the Secretary of Health.

SEC. 5. Administration. – Every IDHRC shall be headed by a director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health. The director shall administer, direct, coordinate, and control the affairs of IDHRC. The director shall receive compensation based on existing laws and shall enjoy the rank and privileges of a director in a government hospital. The Secretary of Health shall appoint two (2) assistant directors to help the director in the management and administration of the IDHRC.

To be eligible for appointment, the director and assistant directors, must possess the technical expertise, academic background and appropriate work experience necessary for the position.

SEC. 6. Powers and Functions. – The director shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) Exercise over-all supervision on the implementation of all the activities, operation, development programs, and researches of the IDHRC;

(b) Certify to the existence of an epidemic which must be treated as a public health emergency;

1 (c) Coordinate with other government agencies, international
2 organization, academic institutions, and learning institute and other pertinent
3 groups in the conduct of activities relating to disease prevention and control;

4 (d) Execute contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets
5 and deliver documents on behalf of the IDHRC;

6 (e) Approve the organizational structure, staffing patterns, operating
7 and capital expenditures of the IDHRC;

8 (f) Recommend the appointment of officers and employees on the
9 basis of the highest possible standards of merit and fitness for public servants
10 subject to the civil service laws, rules and regulations;

11 (g) Implement and enforce policies, decisions, orders, rules and
12 regulations issued by the Department of Health; and

13 (h) Exercise such other powers and functions and perform such other
14 duties as may be authorized, delegated, or assigned by the Secretary of Health.

15 SEC. 7. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation
16 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department
17 of Health. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued
18 operation and maintenance of the IDHRC shall be included in the annual
19 General Appropriations Act.

20 SEC. 8. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)
21 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall issue the
22 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

1 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All law, decrees, orders, rules and
2 regulations and other issuance, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the
3 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
6 circulation.

7 Approved,