

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4096



Introduced by Rep. Anna Katrina M. Enverga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill is a proposed legislation originally filed by Rep. Wifrido Mark Enverga during the 15th Congress in 2010. For decades eye diseases have been a priority concern because of the gradual increase of cases being treated in various eye clinics and hospitals due to aging population, improper eye care, and complication from other diseases, environmental factor, accidents and other related factors.

Yet the more common eye diseases are, to a great extent, preventable, and curable with early and adequate medical care, prompt and intensive prevention and health education programs.

Hence there is an urgent need to consolidate and reinforce existing programs, strategies and efforts at preventing, treating and rehabilitating people affected by eye diseases and to undertake research and training on the cure and prevention of eye diseases, through the National Eye Center which will house and nurture the above and related activities and provide tertiary-level care for more difficult and problematic cases.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.


ANNA KATRINA M. ENVERGA

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

SEC. 2. The Center shall have its principal office in Metro Manila, and may have such branch offices, hospitals, clinics or subsidiaries in other areas in the Philippines as it may deem proper and necessary.

(a) To specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation and/or relief of eye and allied diseases;

(b) To promote medical and scientific research relative to the prevention and treatment of eye and allied diseases, and to encourage planning, invention and development of artificial means of eye support and transplantation;

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- 3 (c) To conduct fact finding investigations on eye diseases, and related field
- 4 throughout the country or elsewhere, and to report, publish and
- 5 disseminate information on eye and allied diseases;
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- 7 (d) To finance, sponsor, hold or participate in congresses, conventions,
- 8 conferences, seminars, work-shops and training programs on eye diseases
- 9 and/or related field in the Philippines or abroad; and
- 10
- 11 (e) To stimulate the formation of other organizations on the national,
- 12 provincial, city and/or local levels, and to coordinate the various efforts
- 13 and activities of such organization for the purpose of achieving a more
- 14 effective approach to the common problem relative to the purposes and
- 15 objectives enumerated herein.
- 16

17 **SEC. 4.** For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above-enumerated

18 purposes and objectives, the Center as a body corporate acting through its Board of

19 Trustees, shall have the following powers and functions:

20

- 21 (a) To adopt and use a corporate seal;
- 22
- 23 (b) To sue and be sued in its corporate name;
- 24
- 25
- 26 (c) To adopt its by-laws, rules and regulations as it may deem proper and
- 27 necessary for implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;
- 28
- 29 (d) To succeed by its corporate name, and to acquire and possess properties,
- 30 rights and interests of whatever kind and nature, and mortgage, pledge,
- 31 alienate, encumber or otherwise dispose of the same;
- 32

1 (e) To award, enter into, make, execute, perform and carry out domestic or
2 foreign contracts of whatever kind and nature;

3
4 (f) To invest in, and purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease, grant,
5 mortgage, pledge, sell, assign, convey, transfer, exchange or otherwise deal
6 with, real and/or personal properties of every kind and nature, including
7 shares of stock, bonds, notes, securities and other evidences of
8 indebtedness or obligations of other corporations, whether domestic or
9 foreign, and whether government or private;

10
11 (g) To obtain loans, borrow funds and/or arrange financing or credit assistance
12 of whatever kind and nature from all sources, whether domestic or foreign
13 and whether government or private, and to mortgage, pledge or otherwise
14 encumber any of its properties and assets for the purpose of securing or
15 guaranteeing the performance or fulfillment of any obligation it may
16 undertake for itself or for other entities in which it may be interested;

17
18 (h) To levy, assess and collect such fees, charges and assessments as may be
19 necessary or proper to support, finance and maintain its operations; and

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21 (i) To exercise such other powers and functions as may be incidental or
22 necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act.

23
24 **SEC. 5.** The Center shall be governed, and its activities and properties shall be
25 directed, controlled and managed, by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the
26 Board, which shall be composed of a Chairman and ten (10) members, all of whom shall
27 be appointed by the President of the Philippines. The Chief Executive Officer of the Center,
28 who shall be appointed from among the members of the Board in accordance hereof, shall
29 be the ex-officio Vice-Chairman of the Board.

1 The members of the Board shall serve for a term of three (3) years, with a right
2 to hold-over until their respective successors shall have been duly appointed and
3 qualified. The President of the Philippines may, however, remove any member of the
4 Board for cause. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Board, the person appointed to fill
5 the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member replaced.
6

7 **SEC. 6.** The Board shall have the following powers and functions:
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- 9 (a) To formulate policies, guidelines and programs to effectively implement
10 and carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act;
11
- 12 (b) To prescribe, review and revise the amount of the fees, charges, and
13 assessments levied and collected for the support and maintenance of
14 the operations of the Center;
15
- 16 (c) To control the management, operation and administration of the Center;
17
- 18 (d) To promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary or
19 proper for the effective exercise of power and functions as well as the
20 discharge of the duties, responsibilities of the Center, its officers and
21 employees;
22
- 23 (f) To authorize such expenditures of the Center as may be necessary or
24 proper for the effective management, operation and administration of the
25 Center;
26
- 27 (g) To determine and organize the Center's organizational and administrative
28 structure or pattern, and to establish and fix, review, revise and adjust the
29 appropriate compensation scheme of the officers and employees of the
30 center with reasonable allowances, bonuses and other incentives.
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1 (h) To adopt the annual and supplemental budget of receipts and expenditures
2 of the Center;

3
4 (i) To appoint, remove, suspend or otherwise discipline officers of the Center
5 occupying executive and senior management positions;

6
7 (i) To exercise all the general powers necessary or incidental to the
8 attainment of the purposes and objectives of this Act; and

9
10 (j) To do any and all acts as may be necessary or proper for the attainment of
11 the powers and functions of the Center.
12

13 **SEC. 7.** The Center may call upon any Department, Bureau, Office, Agency or
14 instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned or controlled
15 corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of the purposes and
16 objectives of this Act..
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18 **SEC. 8** The Center is hereby authorized to solicit and receive donations, grants,
19 contributions, gifts or endowments from all sources whether foreign or domestic, and
20 whether government or private, without the need of securing a permit, approval or
21 registration from any government agency.
22

23 **SEC. 9.** The books and accounts of the Center shall be under the charge of a
24 Resident Auditor, subject to periodic auditing by the Chairman of the Commission on
25 Audit, or his duly authorized representative.
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27 **SEC. 10** The Center and its officers and employees shall be covered by the Civil
28 Service Law, rules and regulations.
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1 **SEC. 11.** The Center shall render to the President of the Philippines an annual
2 report on its operations and accomplishments.
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4 **SEC. 12.** The provisions of the general corporation law, insofar as they are not
5 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act of with the purposes and objectives for which
6 the Center is formed, shall apply to the Center.
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8 **SEC. 13.** If for any reason, the Center is dissolved, its properties and assets shall
9 revert to the National Government for disposition in accordance with law.
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11 **SEC. 14.** The amount of One Hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby
12 appropriated for the necessary initial operating expenses and maintenance of the National
13 Eye Center. Thereafter, such sum as maybe necessary for the continued operation of the
14 Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
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16 **SEC. 15.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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18 *APPROVED,*