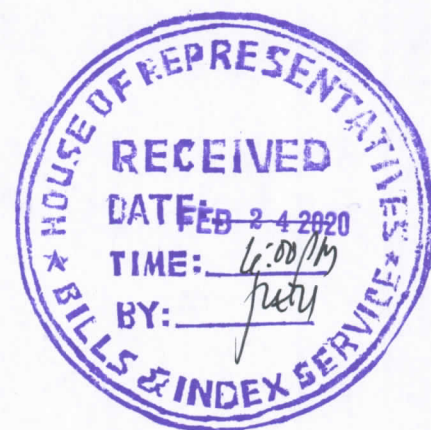


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE**

H.B. No. 6383

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Introduced by **Representative TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

With the outbreak of the 2019 novel Corona Virus (2019-nCoV), now officially called by the World Health Organization, as the Corona Virus Disease, 2019 or “COVID-19,” which has infected more than 40,000 people in the world and killed more than 1,000, there is a need for an independent body that will lead the country for a prompt and effective public response to manage communicable diseases and outbreaks.

This bill seeks to establish a Philippine National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which shall be the principal health protection agency of the Philippines tasked to prevent, protect and manage the spread of communicable and infectious diseases and other health threats originating domestically and internationally

This is a dire reminder that communicable and infectious diseases and public health threats respect no borders. As such, it is timely and in the nation’s interest for the Philippines to join the global fight in combating infectious diseases and other potential health threats, by creating an independent and competent national Center for Disease Control and Prevention. It also aims to provide effective measures to track and control infectious diseases, which include engaging in global health surveillance of current and emerging/re-emerging communicable diseases and granting broad quarantine powers to the Secretary of Health and the CDC.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently sought.

  
**TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR.**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
H.B. No. 6383

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT  
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION,  
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**Section 1. Title** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Act”

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- a) To protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;
- b) To adopt, support, establish and maintain an effective health mechanism responsive to the country’s health needs, emergency;
- c) To ensure the health and wellbeing of Filipinos and protect them from communicable diseases;
- d) To prevent the emergence and transmission of serious diseases;
- e) To provide a framework for communicable disease control and prevention in the country; and
- f) To establish a health protection agency to save lives and protect people from health threats.

**Section 3. Creation of the Philippine Center for Disease Control and Prevention** – There is hereby created an independent body to be known as the Philippine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, hereinafter referred to as “CDC”.

The CDC shall be the principal agency tasked to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by communicable diseases. It shall carry out activities for the prevention and control of communicable diseases for promotion of public health.

The CDC shall be attached to the Department of Health for policy and program coordination.



**Section 4. Powers and Functions** – The CDC shall exercise the following powers and functions :

- a) establish procedures for systematically searching for, collecting, collating and analyzing information and data to identify emerging health threats in the country
- b) undertake research activities in the diagnosis, control and prevention of communicable diseases that are major causes of mortality and morbidity in the country
- c) investigate disease outbreaks and other threats to public health
- d) conduct clinical trials aimed at better understanding and control of communicable diseases in the country
- e) foster the development of sufficient capacity for diagnosis, detection, identification and characterization of infectious agents which may threaten public health
- f) coordinate data collection, validation, analysis and provide health information to protect against expensive and dangerous health threats
- g) ensure that the public and any interested party are rapidly given objective, reliable and easily accessible information with regard to the results of its work
- h) provide information, expertise, advice and risk assessment to local government units in the control and prevention of communicable diseases
- i) assist local government units in the control of a broad range of communicable diseases
- j) formulate an early warning and response system to make available information for the general public
- k) confront global disease threats through advanced computing and lab analysis of data to quickly find solutions
- l) maintain the database for epidemiological surveillance
- m) provide independent scientific opinions, expert advice, data and information
- n) promote and initiate scientific studies necessary for the prevention and control of communicable diseases
- o) submit to Congress an annual evaluation of the current and emerging threats to health in the country

**Section 5. Early Warning and Response System** – The CDC shall operate an Early Warning and Response System which will ensure that the national government and local government units are able to respond in a timely and coordinated manner to emerging health threats in the country.

The CDC shall take action to ensure that the early warning and response system is efficiently and effectively linked with other forms of community alert systems.

**Section 6. Obligation of Local Government Units** - Local government units must provide the CDC in a timely manner available health and technical data relevant to the prevention and control of communicable diseases.



**Section 7. *Transfer of Agencies and Personnel*** - The following offices and agencies are hereby abolished and their powers and functions, applicable funds and appropriations, records, equipment, property and personnel transferred to the CDC:

- a) Infectious Diseases for Elimination Division (under the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of the Department of Health)
- b) Infectious Diseases for Prevention and Control Division (under the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of the Department of Health)
- c) The Epidemiology Bureau of the Department of Health
- d) The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

**Section 8. *Executive Director*** - The CDC shall be headed by an Executive Director, with the rank of Undersecretary, who shall be appointed by the President on the basis of technical expertise, academic background and appropriate work experience.

The Executive Director shall perform the following functions and powers :

- a) Manage and direct the activities of the Philippine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- b) Coordinate CDC response to health emergencies
- c) Certify to the existence of an epidemic, which shall be treated as a public health emergency
- d) Recommend to the President the exercise of special powers in the case of an epidemic
- e) Coordinate international health activities relating to disease prevention and control
- f) Liaise with other government agencies, international organizations, including the World Health Organization, learning institutions and other outside groups
- g) Appoint employees of CDC in accordance with civil service law, rules and regulations.

**Section 9. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** - The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall determine the organizational structure, qualification standards, staffing pattern and compensation of the newly created CDC, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

**Section 10. *Appropriations*** - The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal year's appropriation of the offices and agency herein absorbed by the CDC. Thereafter, the amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the CDC shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

**Section 11. *Separability Clause*** - If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 12. *Repealing Clause*** - All laws, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 13. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*