

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9849



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

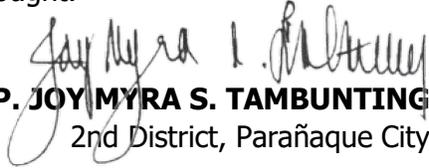
The enactment of Republic Act No. 6786 on 29 November 1989 renamed the National Orthopedic Hospital and Rehabilitation Medical Center to the currently recognized Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC).

This bill seeks to modernize the services and equipment of the Philippine Orthopedic Center in order to continuously serve its purpose being the center for trauma and orthopedics. It currently accommodates a 700-bed capacity being a tertiary special hospital functioning under the Department of Health (DOH) that needs to be boosted as the population that needs medical care within Metro Manila for the past decades hastily increased. Its location at Banawe Avenue corner Maria Clara, Santa Mesa Heights, Quezon City caters an enormous population of the Metro Manila because of its strategic neighborhood. An upgrade is urgently wanted in this hospital give priority to the unwell especially now that our nation is experiencing a worldwide health crises.

The 1987 Constitution is explicit in mandating that it is the responsibility of the State to "adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost."¹

This bill ought to set and make higher standards in our healthcare system by a furnishing prevailing technologies and organization modifications to make POC more receptive, accessible and efficient in delivering medical and rehabilitative care to the general public with musculoskeletal disorder and other related conditions.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

¹ 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XII, Section 11 on Health

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AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC CENTER, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Philippine Orthopedic Center Rehabilitation and Modernization Act”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to modernize the health care delivery system to a level where it can fully and effectively perform its constitutional mandate to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Towards this end, the State shall undertake the modernization of the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC), which is the country's only tertiary special hospital under the Department of Health tasked to provide quality orthopedic, rehabilitation and other services relating to musculoskeletal disorder and related conditions.

SEC. 3. Objective. – There shall be developed a POC Modernization Plan which shall have the following objectives:

- a) Undertake the repair and rehabilitation of the POC to be a premier specialty tertiary orthopedic hospital, referral center, and training institute;
- b) Upgrade, modernize, acquire and procure state-of-the-art medical equipment, the latest model of critical apparatus, instruments, the renovation and modernization of its facilities and the application of the new technologies to improve the hospital's capabilities in providing timely and reliable medical services for its patients; and
- c) Render quality health and medical care services to indigent patients by maintaining seventy percent (70%) allocation of beds for government-sponsored patients.

SEC. 4. POC Modernization Plan. – The POC Modernization Plan shall principally be a re-tooling of POC with modern equipment and facilities, including but not limited to, procurement of the latest and most up-to-date medical instruments, tools and apparatus; repair major areas

which need to be rehabilitated such as patient rooms and wards, operating rooms, lavatory areas and comfort rooms, and other physical facilities; and repair and repainting of POC buildings and its environment.

SEC. 5. POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Council. – For the purposes of formulating and adopting the POC Modernization Plan, there is hereby created a POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Council composed of seven (7) members which shall be headed by the Secretary of Health as its Ex-Officio Chairman and the POC Medical Center Chief as Co-Chairman. Its members shall be composed of representatives of academic and medical communities in the field of Orthopedic medicine and other stakeholders as may be determined by the Secretary of Health.

SEC. 6. POC Rehabilitation and Modernization Fund. – There is hereby created the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC) - Rehabilitation and Modernization fund which shall be used exclusively to fund the modernization plan provided under this Act.

The initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (PhP500,000,000) to comprise the said fund shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year immediately following the approval of this Act.

The total amount allocated herein shall be used exclusively for the rehabilitation and/or repair, renovation of POC, the procurement of hospital materials, equipment, furniture and fixtures pursuant to the program and guidelines as determined by the Council.

SEC. 7. Rules and Regulations. – The DOH shall, within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Annual Report. – The Council shall submit to the Office of the President and Congress, through the House and Senate Committees on Health, an annual report on the outcome and progress of its activities.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – Should any provision or part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions and parts hereof, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,