



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4375

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BY REPRESENTATIVE SYJUCO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 776

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AN ACT CONVERTING THE WESTERN VISAYAS SANITARIUM AND LEPROSARIUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. BARBARA, PROVINCE OF ILOILO INTO THE PRESIDENT DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1           SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of  
2 the State to protect and promote the right to health, instill health consciousness  
3 among the people and advance the integrated and comprehensive approach to  
4 health development and research.

5           SEC. 2. *Conversion into a Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.* –  
6 The Western Visayas Sanitarium and Leprosarium in the Municipality of  
7 Sta. Barbara, Province of Iloilo is hereby converted into the President  
8 Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Hospital and Research Institute for Tropical  
9 Medicine, hereinafter referred to as the Institute.

1           SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage of Tropical Medicine.* – For purposes of  
2 this Act, the scope and coverage of tropical medicine shall pertain to diseases  
3 that are specific to the tropics, which is the geographical area between the  
4 Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, and for diseases that present  
5 differently in this geographical region as compared to other regions, to wit:  
6 gastrointestinal infections, viral hepatitis, bacterial and non-bacterial  
7 respiratory infections, amoebiasis, schistosomiasis, filariasis, malaria,  
8 pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, meningitis, maningismus, measles, mumps, herpes,  
9 chicken pox, rocky mountain spotted fever, encephalitis, echo-viral diseases,  
10 coxachie viral diseases and Philippine hemorrhagic fever: *Provided*, That the  
11 *Department of Health (DOH) may include such other pertinent diseases in*  
12 *consultation with the Advisory Board herein created.*

13           SEC. 4. *Organization.* – The Institute shall be organized as follows:

14           (a) The Institute shall be operated as a special project of the DOH in  
15 the Visayas area. The Secretary of Health shall promulgate policies for and  
16 exercise overall supervision over the Institute;

17           (b) The Institute shall be headed by an executive director who shall be  
18 assisted by two (2) assistant directors, all of whom shall be appointed by the  
19 Secretary of the DOH. The executive director shall be responsible for the  
20 implementation of policies and the immediate management of the programs  
21 and operations of the Institute; and

22           (c) The assistant directors shall aid the executive director in the  
23 performance of his operational duties, and shall perform such other functions  
24 as may be directed by the executive director. One (1) assistant director shall be  
25 tasked to overlook the policy, planning and monitoring activities of the  
26 Institute, while the other shall be responsible for support staff services.

27           SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.* – The Institute shall have the  
28 following powers and functions:

1 (a) Undertake research activities in the diagnosis, control and  
2 prevention of tropical diseases that are major causes of mortality and morbidity  
3 in the Philippines;

4 (b) Conduct clinical trials aimed at better understanding and control of  
5 tropical diseases;

6 (c) Conduct regular training courses for medical and paramedical  
7 personnel in the control of common tropical diseases not just in the Western  
8 Visayas but in the country as well;

9 (d) Provide high-quality tertiary care to both inpatients and outpatients  
10 suffering from tropical diseases included within the scope of the Institute's  
11 research activities;

12 (e) Participate in the technical cooperation program in coordination  
13 with the DOH's Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in research activities  
14 in the diagnosis, control and prevention of tropical diseases;

15 (f) Apply for, receive and accept bequests, grants and donation of  
16 funds, equipment, materials and services needed for the attainment of its  
17 objectives; and

18 (g) Perform such other related activities as may be assigned by the  
19 DOH.

20 SEC. 6. *Personnel.* — The Institute shall have its technical and  
21 administrative support. The officers and employees of the Institute shall be  
22 appointed by the Secretary of Health, upon recommendation of the Advisory  
23 Board, in accordance with existing laws governing such. Consultants may be  
24 drawn from the public and private sectors on consultancy or contractual basis  
25 and shall be granted honoraria or allowances at such amounts as may be  
26 determined in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

1           **SEC. 7. *Advisory Board.*** – There shall be in the Institute an Advisory  
2 Board to be administered under the direction of the Secretary of Health to be  
3 composed of the following officials or their duly designated representatives:

4           (a) The Secretary of the DOH or the duly designated representative;

5           (b) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology or the  
6 duly designated representative;

7           (c) The executive director of the Institute;

8           (d) One (1) representative from the association of medical research  
9 organizations to be appointed by the Secretary of Health; and

10          (e) The chief of hospital.

11          The functions of the Advisory Board shall be:

12          (1) Formulate and recommend to the Secretary of Health policies,  
13 programs, standards and guidelines for the effective and efficient operation of  
14 the Institute;

15          (2) Review, endorse and recommend to the Secretary of Health the  
16 annual budget plan;

17          (3) Advise the Institute on creating and implementing its vision and  
18 missions;

19          (4) Report annually to the Secretary of Health on its activities and,  
20 whenever necessary, make recommendations in relation to the performance of  
21 the Institute; and

22          (5) Recommend to the Secretary of Health the appointments of officers,  
23 personnel and consultants.

24          **SEC. 8. *Biomedical Research Functions.*** – The functions of the  
25 Institute involving biomedical research in tropical medicine will be undertaken  
26 together with applicable appropriations, records, equipment, property and such  
27 personnel as may be necessary.

1           SEC. 9. *Funding.* – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include  
2 in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the initial  
3 funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of  
4 the Western Visayas Sanitarium and Leprosarium. Thereafter, the amount  
5 necessary for the continued operation of the President Diosdado Macapagal  
6 Memorial Hospital and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine shall be  
7 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8           SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
9 completion of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general  
10 circulation.

Approved,

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