



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6735

BY REPRESENTATIVES ANGARA, ABAYA, PALMONES, MERCADO-REVILLA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), MARAÑON, ACOP, TING, RAMOS, PICHAY, ERIGUEL, LAGDAMEO (M.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), CALIXTO-RUBIANO, AVANCE-FUENTES, QUIMBO, SALIMBANGON, ROMAN, GOLEZ (A.), CAJAYON, VILLARICA, ALCALA, YAP (S.), ZAMORA, LAPUS, HERRERA-DY, GARBIN, CO, BATOCABE, GULLAS, TEODORO, RELAMPAGOS, NOGRALES, SY-ALVARADO, MARCOLETA, VILLAR, SYJUCO AND DEL ROSARIO (A.G.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2491

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH SYSTEM

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

1 ARTICLE I

2 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine
3 National Health Research System Act of 2012”.

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the
5 State to protect and promote the right to health of the people, instill health
6 consciousness among them and improve the quality of life of every Filipino
7 through health research and development initiatives.

8 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purpose of this Act, the
9 following terms shall be defined as follows:

1 (a) *Health* shall refer to a state of optimal physical, mental and social
2 well-being and the ability to function at the individual level.

3 (b) *Health research stakeholders* shall refer to the national and the
4 local public and private agencies/organizations, policymakers, the academe,
5 medical and health societies, people's organizations and others who are
6 concerned with and affected by health and development.

7 (c) *National Unified Health Research Agenda* shall refer to a set of
8 research priorities determined by the country's stakeholders which addresses
9 the health needs of the population *vis-a-vis* the health sector's goal for
10 universal health care. This agenda is a platform to advocate for local, national
11 and international support.

12 (d) *Philippine Council for Health Research and Development*
13 (*PCHRD*) shall refer to one of the sectoral planning councils of the Department
14 of Science and Technology (DOST) which provides central direction,
15 leadership and coordination in health science and technology (S&T).

16 (e) *Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB)* shall refer to
17 the national policymaking body on health research ethics, created under
18 DOST Special Order No. 091, which is mandated to ensure that all phases of
19 health research shall adhere to the universal ethical principles that value the
20 protection and promotion of the dignity of health research participants.

21 (f) *Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS)* shall refer
22 to a framework anchored on the principles of Essential National Health
23 Research on inclusiveness, participation, quality, equity, efficiency and
24 effectiveness, which connect to, and converge with, the wider health,
25 economic, political, educational and S&T systems of the country.

26 (g) *Regional Health Research Systems* shall refer to the regional health
27 research consortia or communities in the seventeen (17) regions of the country
28 which mirror the PNHRS framework at the regional level.

1 (h) *Research* shall refer to the development of knowledge with the aim
2 of understanding health challenges and mounting an improved response to
3 them. This covers the full spectrum of research in five (5) generic areas of
4 activity: (1) measuring the problem; (2) understanding its cause(s);
5 (3) elaborating solutions; (4) translating the solutions or evidence into policy,
6 practice and products; and (5) evaluating the effectiveness of solutions.

7 ARTICLE II

8 The Philippine National Health Research System

9 SEC. 4. *Institutionalization of the Philippine National Health Research*
10 *System (PNHRS)*. – The Philippine National Health Research System
11 (PNHRS), initiated through a Memorandum of Understanding between the
12 DOST and the Department of Health (DOH) in 2003 and 2007, is hereby
13 institutionalized within the mandate of the PCHRD, the national coordinating
14 body for health research.

15 SEC. 5. *Objectives of the Philippine National Health Research System*.
16 – The PNHRS aims to improve the health status, productivity and the quality
17 of life of Filipinos by:

- 18 (a) Ensuring that health research is linked to the health system needs;
- 19 (b) Ensuring that investments in health research yield the most benefit;
- 20 (c) Promoting good governance among health research organizations
21 through efficient, effective, transparent and ethical health research management
22 system;
- 23 (d) Engaging in national and international partnerships and networks
24 for health research development; and
- 25 (e) Ensuring sustainability of resources for health research.

26 SEC. 6. *Composition of the Philippine National Health Research*
27 *System*. – The PNHRS shall be composed of the Governing Council (GC), the
28 Steering Committee, the Technical Working Committees (TWC) and the

1 Secretariat, as described in Section 9 hereof. The whole health research
2 community shall be deemed an indispensable partner and contributor in the
3 effort to strengthen the PNHRS. The interrelationships among these various
4 components shall be described in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR)
5 of this Act.

6 SEC. 7. *The Philippine National Health Research System Governing*
7 *Council.* – The Philippine Council for Health Research Development
8 Governing Council, created under Executive Order (EO) No. 784 of 1982 and
9 EO No. 128 of 1987, shall be the Governing Council of the PNHRS. The
10 PNHRS Governing Council shall be composed of the following:

- 11 (a) The Secretary of the DOST, as Chair;
12 (b) The Secretary of the DOH as Co-Chair;
13 (c) The Chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
14 (d) The Chancellor of the University of the Philippines, Manila (UPM);
15 (e) The National Nutrition Council-Executive Director;
16 (f) The PCHRD Executive Director; and
17 (g) Five (5) representatives from the private sector.

18 SEC. 8. *Powers and Functions of the Philippine National Health*
19 *Research System Governing Council.* – The PNHRS Governing Council
20 shall:

- 21 (a) Set policies and directions for the PNHRS;
22 (b) Periodically review and approve the long-term plans and programs
23 of the PNHRS;
24 (c) Evaluate and approve the National Unified Health Research
25 Agenda, and identify areas that will serve as the foci of the National Health
26 Research Agenda;
27 (d) Review, approve or disapprove research programs; and

1 (e) Create committees as the need arises to facilitate and ensure the
2 achievement of its objectives.

3 SEC. 9. *The PCHRD Executive Director and Secretariat.* -- The
4 PCHRD Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be
5 appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the
6 DOST Secretary. The Executive Director shall be responsible for, among
7 others, the smooth implementation of programs and projects and shall, in
8 pursuit thereof, exercise an oversight function over the System. The Executive
9 Director shall be assisted by the PCHRD Secretariat.

10 The Secretariat shall provide technical and administrative support to the
11 PCHRD in the following areas:

- 12 (a) Research and Development Management;
- 13 (b) Institution Development;
- 14 (c) Research Information, Communication and Utilization; and
- 15 (d) Finance and Administration.

16 SEC. 10. *Creation and Functions of the Steering Committee.* --

17 (a) The GC shall create a Steering Committee to be headed by the
18 PCHRD Executive Director. It shall be composed of the following:

- 19 (1) The Executive Director, DOST-PCHRD;
- 20 (2) The Director, Department of Health-Health Policy Development
21 and Planning Bureau (DOH-HPDPB);
- 22 (3) The Director, Commission on Higher Education, Office of Policy,
23 Planning, Research and Information (CHED-OPPRI);
- 24 (4) The Executive Director, University of the Philippines,
25 Manila-National Institutes of Health (UPM-NIH);
- 26 (5) The Director of the Social Development Services of the National
27 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);

1 (6) The Chair of the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board
2 (PHREB);

3 (7) A representative from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
4 (PHIC);

5 (8) A representative from the National Statistics Office (NSO);

6 (9) A representative from the Professional Regulation Commission
7 (PRC);

8 (10) A representative from the Department of Transportation and
9 Communications-Land Transportation Office (DOTC-LTO);

10 (11) A representative from the Department of Environment and Natural
11 Resources-Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB);

12 (12) A representative from the local government units (LGUs); and

13 (13) The Chairpersons of relevant PNHRS Technical Working
14 Committees.

15 (b) The Steering Committee shall perform the following functions:

16 (1) Recommend policies to the GC;

17 (2) Perform oversight function on the implementation and
18 harmonization of PNHRS activities and the allocation of the PHNRS fund;

19 (3) Coordinate and harmonize the activities of the six (6) PNHRS
20 Technical Working Committees; and

21 (4) Monitor and report to the GC the progress of the PNHRS
22 programs.

23 SEC. 11. *Creation of the Technical Working Committees.* – The GC
24 shall create Technical Working Committees aligned with research themes
25 which are based on the country's health needs and the six (6) building blocks
26 of the World Health Organization (WHO) to attain universal health care.

27 The committees shall develop and monitor their respective strategic
28 plans. They shall work closely with the stakeholders and the Secretariat.

1 contributing agencies. The specifics/details of monitoring, evaluation,
2 accountabilities and annual reporting shall be provided for in the implementing
3 rules and regulations of this Act.

4 SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOST-PCHRD,
5 the DOH, the CHED and the UPM-NIH shall promulgate the implementing
6 rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days after the effectivity
7 hereof.

8 SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held
9 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not
10 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

11 SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or
12 issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or
13 regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby
14 repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

15 SEC. 18. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
16 days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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