

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

17<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 874



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Introduced by HON. ROGELIO J. ESPINA

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a two hundred (200)-bed capacity provincial hospital and relocation of the same to Barangay Larrazabal, Municipality of Naval, and Province of Biliran.

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. "Further, Article XIII, Section 11, states: "The State shall 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

Without a doubt, the priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children and the endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers could only be effectively serviced by government-owned hospitals especially those in the provinces. Due to the exorbitant price of health care, majority of the underprivileged people largely depend on public hospitals for their medical needs and attention. This situation is very much evident in the case of the people of the province of Biliran.


In 2015, Biliran province has a total population of 171,612 according to The Philippine Statistics Authority, in parallel to the rise of the population is an immediate demand for the creation of 200-bed capacity Provincial Hospital from its present 75-bed capacity.

Biliran Provincial Hospital (BPH) is the only public hospital in the province that offers medical and surgical services.

BPH's incapacitated to serve the whole province of Biliran is only one of its major problems. On January 13-15, 2013, upon assessment of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, they arrived to a conclusion and strong recommendation that BPH needs an immediate relocation due to high risk of landslide, flooding and liquefaction. Further, due to its approximately 20 meters from the coast, it violates the 40-meter "no build zone" from the coastal areas.

On January 16, 2014, the same group of geologists from the Mines and Geosciences in coordination with the Local Government conducted a geohazard survey of the proposed 2-hectare parcel of lot for relocation of new BPH in Brgy. Larrazabal, Municipality of Naval, Province of Biliran and found it very feasible. The said government owned property has an average elevation ranges from 40 to 60 meters above the sea level and much safer to cater more quality health services.

In keeping with the constitutional mandate, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. ROGELIO J. ESPINA  
Representative  
Lone District, Biliran

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A TWO HUNDRED (200)-BED CAPACITY PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL AND RELOCATION OF THE EXISTING BILIRAN PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL TO BARANGAY LARRAZABAL, MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

**Section 1. Establishment of a 200-bed capacity** - It is hereby established the Provincial Hospital of Biliran with 200-bed capacity and relocation to Barangay Larrazabal, Municipality of Naval, Province of Biliran.

The present location of the Biliran Provincial Hospital with 75-bed capacity is now high risk of flooding and liquefaction and needs a relocation as per assessment and endorsement of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

**Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy** - It is the declared policy of the State that it shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Further, the State shall 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.

**Sec. 3. Objectives.** - The objective of this Act is to establish a safer and quality health services to the Province of Biliran. Furthermore, to prevent future accident and damages to life and property. Lastly, to avoid liquefaction and collapse of the building due to its high risk to storm surges, tidal waves and tsunامي.

**Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations** -For the purpose of compliance of this Act, the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works and Highways shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, including the necessary support, technical and facilities such as construction of the building and all other equipment.

**Sec. 5. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations for the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the operation of the hospital shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Sec. 6. Separability Clause** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

**Sec. 7. Repealing Clause** - All laws, executive orders, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 8. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.