

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 934

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a declared policy that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them (Article II, Section 15, 1987 Philippine Constitution).

Likewise, the 1987 Constitution is specific that 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 (Article XII, Section 11, 1987 Philippine Constitution).

There is a need to increase access of poor families to basic services health, shelter, food and education. While the government, through the Department of Health, has a medical assistance program, the same is not as comprehensive as the needs of millions of Filipinos require.

This bill aims to increase access and availability of hospitalization to the poor by providing for free hospitalization to millions of Filipinos who are admitted or confined in wards of government hospitals to ensure that they can avail of health services without worrying about payment of hospital bills.

Furthermore, this bill aims to provide timely and responsive assistance to individuals with health-related needs.

Therefore, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE HOSPITALIZATION TO PERSONS ADMITTED AND CONFINED IN THE WARDS OF SPECIALTY, SPECIAL, RETAINED HOSPITALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, OTHER STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGE HOSPITALS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT HOSPITALS, AND OTHER RELATED HEALTH FACILITIES.

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 *Free Hospitalization Act of 2016*.

SECTION 2. Coverage - All Hospital services rendered to patients or individuals with health-related needs and who are otherwise confined in the general, charity or pay wards of the covered government hospitals and facilities defined in Section 3 hereof shall be made of free of charge, regardless of amount.

SECTION 3. - Definition of Terms -

- a. **Government Hospital** — refers to a hospital created by law under the supervision of the national government through the DOH, Local Government Unit (LGU), Department of National Defense (DND), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Justice (DOJ), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and others;
- b. **Retained Hospitals** — refers to all hospitals which are or may in the future be under the management and operation of the DOH Center For Health Development;
- c. **Specialty Hospitals** — refers to the four (4) corporate hospitals under the DOH namely, Philippine Heart Center (PHC), National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKT), Lung Center of the Philippines

(LCP) and Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC);

- d. **Special Hospital** — refers to the hospitals to all hospitals which are or may in the future be under the DOH that are primarily engaged in the provision of specific clinical care and management;
- e. **Health Facility** - refers to DOH Specialty, Special and Retained Hospitals, LGU Hospitals, SUC Hospitals, Infirmaries and such other facilities determined by the DOH.

Section 4. *Implementation* - The Department of Health shall ensure compliance by the concerned hospitals and facilities of the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. *Appropriation*. - The amount necessary to defray the costs of the free hospitalization referred to under this Act shall be charged against the "Assistance to Indigent Patients either Confined or Out-Patient in Government Hospital / Specialty Hospitals/ LGU Hospitals/ Philippine General Hospital/ West Visayas State University Hospital" provided for in the GAA for 2016 under the Office of the Secretary, of the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act of the current year. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the full implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect immediately after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,