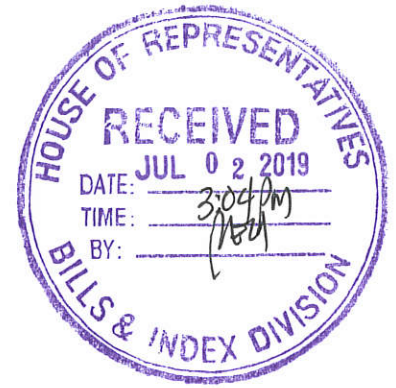


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 996

Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The republic of the Philippines has a very promising **medical tourism industry**, these sectors include health professionals, quality health care and insurance providers, tourism planners, airline and travel executives patient safety workers. Also involved are sectors in finance, real estate, retirement planning, communications and advertising, as well as those in information technology. The timely, relevant and strategic inputs of all concerned sectors lead to increased Philippine industry competitiveness amidst the increasing opportunities in the field.

Countries all over the world are thinking of viable means to reduce their costs of delivering quality and sufficient medical and health care for their public. The practice of providing international accreditation to qualified hospitals and facilities has also been set, and thus, ensuring that more qualified players are able to get into medical tourism is a concern.

In recent years, the Philippines has gained considerable momentum in this area and this pace can only be further improved through sustained and focused attention for its growth.

It has been noted that the Philippines is a natural provider of medical tourism, with the high level of competence of its medical professionals, their ability to communicate well in English, the upgrade of equipment and infrastructure to provide well-priced services, as well as the innate hospitality of the Filipino people.

This House Bill seeks to foster the continuity and expansion of a responsive medical tourism industry.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 996

Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

AN ACT

CREATING THE **PHILIPPINE MEDICAL TOURISM AUTHORITY**,
TO FOSTER THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL
TOURISM, TO PROMOTE THE NEED FOR A SYSTEMATIC AND
STRATEGIC COORDINATION AMONG NUMEROUS
STAKEHOLDERS WORKING TOWARD A THRIVING AND
RESPONSIVE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL TOURISM INDUSTRY, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY – It is hereby a declared policy of the state to:

- Promote popularity of medical tourism;
- Facilitate immediate rendering of certain procedures;
- Rationalize the ease and affordability of travel;
- Make improvements in both technology and standards of care in the countries medical tourism industry; and

- Establish competitive and cheaper prices.

SECTION 2. TRANSITORY PROVISION – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS – The departments and agencies charged, with carrying out the provisions of this Act, shall within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 4. REPEALING CLAUSE – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,