

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2444**



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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Province of Camarines Sur including the cities of Naga and Iriga is the only province in the Philippines without any provincial hospital. The reason for this is that the provincial hospital then located in the Municipality of Naga which later on became a city, was converted into a regional hospital and then into the Bicol Medical Center (BMC).

But the Bicol Medical Center as it stands today for the various services it has to offer has only three hundred bed capacity in its main buildings in Naga City which are earmarked among other for Internal Medicine, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Pediatrics, Surgery, Orthopedics, Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat, Dialysis Unit, Physical Therapy Services and Diagnostic Laboratory Facilities. The BMC itself needs expansion in terms of bed capacity, equipment and professional personnel.

It should be highlighted that one of the biggest gaps in the province of Camarines Sur in terms of health care is the Obstetrics, Gynecology, Pediatrics needs of the province with 35 municipalities and 2 cities.

Apart from local concerns, it is to be re-emphasized that it is our country's commitment under the UN Sustainable Development Goals to reduce child mortality, improve mental health and combat other women's and children's diseases. The establishment

of the Bicol Women's and Children's Hospital as herein proposed is geared towards the attainment of such goal within the province of Camarines Sur.

It is therefore proposed in this bill that instead of reestablishing a provincial hospital for general medical services, a women's and children's hospital be organized as a specialized institution that will complement and supplement the facilities and services that the BMC is presently able to offer.

It is proposed therefore that a 200 bed-capacity hospital strictly for women's and children's health requirements as defined under this bill be organized through the enactment of the appropriate law as herein proposed under this bill.

This proposed bill has also been approved at third and final reading during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the House of Representatives but was unable to move forward in the Senate. Considering the merits of this bill and its approval in the prior Congress, early approval hereof is earnestly requested.



**LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S**  
**HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA IN THE PROVINCE OF**  
**CAMARINES SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BICOL WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S**  
**HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

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

**SECTION. 1.** There shall be established under the direct supervision of the Secretary of the Department of Health, a women's and children's hospital in the Municipality of Pamplona in the Province of Camarines Sur, to be known as the Bicol Women's and Children's Hospital. It shall be authorized to operate a two hundred (200)-bed capacity hospital dedicated to women's and children's health requirement.

**SEC. 2.** The Hospital shall specialize on the care of women and children and shall focus on women and children health care, prenatal testing, obstetrician and gynecology services, pediatrics care, lactation programs, nutrition services, neonatal care, immunization services, postpartum depression support and education classes for parenting, and women's and children's health awareness.

**SEC. 3.** The Provincial Government of Camarines Sur shall provide funding for the establishment and operation of the Bicol Women's and Children's Hospital. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's subsidy program, support for the capital outlay of the said hospital.

**SEC. 4.** The Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,