

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2582



Introduced by **Hon. Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution states that, "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

In line with this, this bill seeks to increase the bed capacity of the public lying-in clinic in the Municipality of Rizal, Province of Palawan, from 10-bed to 20-bed capacity. It is crucial to increase its bed capacity so that the prevailing need of the citizens in the area related to pregnancy and childbirth will be addressed.

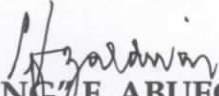
Most of the inhabitants of Rizal, Palawan are farmers. For women to give birth, they need to traverse through arduous mountain slopes and ravines to reach this health facility in Rizal. Worse, most families are financially constrained to travel or transfer to a neighboring municipality or to a bigger clinic or medical establishment whenever this facility is incapacitated for further admission. For those who can afford to avail of a better medical service, they need to travel long hours to other municipalities or in Puerto Princesa City. It is evident that the minimal capacity of this public health facility takes a higher social cost to the populace.

Moreover, the current capacity of this clinic can no longer support the burgeoning municipal population and its medical need. Statistics indicates a rising population density of the municipality from 37,487 in 2007, 42,759 in 2010 to 50,096 in 2015. Albeit minimal, the upgrade into a 20-bed maternity facility intended for pregnant women is crucial to the community and its people.

On a larger note, it is essential that the national government needs to address the growing public health challenges, especially in the countryside, to ensure the health and well-being of the present and future generations. We know that the national government is serious in providing an effective and efficient delivery of medical services in the country. It is hoped that this appeal of the people of Rizal, Palawan will be acted on positively.

It is worth mentioning that this measure was filed by former Deputy Speaker Frederick F. Abueg, approved by the House of Representatives, and transmitted to the Senate in the Seventeenth Congress.

In view of the import of this measure, its immediate passage into law is earnestly sought.


CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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AN ACT

1
2 **INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE LYING-IN CLINIC IN THE**
3 **MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM TEN (10) BEDS**
4 **TO TWENTY (20) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND**
5 **PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE**
6 **INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**
7 **THEREFOR**
8

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

11
12 **SECTION 1.** The authorized bed capacity of the Lying-in Clinic in the
13 Municipality of Rizal, Province of Palawan is hereby increased from ten (10) to
14 twenty (20) beds.

15
16 **SEC. 2.** The existing service facilities and professional health care services of
17 the Rizal, Palawan Lying-in Clinic are hereby upgraded to conform with and be
18 commensurate to the bed capacity as herein provided for.

19
20 **SEC. 3.** The existing workforce of the Rizal, Palawan Lying-in Clinic shall be
21 correspondingly increased. Upon prior consultation with the management of the
22 Rizal, Palawan Lying-in Clinic, the Secretary of Health, in coordination with the

1 Secretary of Budget and Management and the Chairperson of the Civil Service
2 Commission, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created
3 pursuant to this Act.

4

5 **SEC. 4.** The Provincial Government of Palawan shall provide the necessary
6 funds for the maintenance and other operating expenses of the Lying-in Clinic in
7 the Municipality of Rizal. It shall also appropriate funds for human resource
8 complement to support the increase in bed capacity and the corresponding
9 upgrading of its service facilities and professional health care services. The
10 Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's subsidy program, support for
11 the capital outlays of the said lying-in clinic.

12

13 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
14 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

15

16 *Approved,*