

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1492**



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Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

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**AN ACT**  
**AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) TO SET AND APPROVE THE**  
**BED CAPACITY OF ALL DOH HOSPITALS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to address the congestion of patients in public hospitals by authorizing the Department of Health (DOH) to increase the bed capacity of its retained hospitals and allowing it to promulgate guidelines that will be used in evaluating and approving changes in bed capacity. It authorizes the DOH to increase the bed capacity and to right-size the authorized bed capacity of its retained hospitals, as necessary.

With the devolution of health services, there are now only 70 DOH-retained public hospitals nationwide, of which 51 are considered general hospitals while 19 are specialty hospitals. These hospitals complement the devolved district and provincial hospitals, as well as private hospitals, in providing health care services to millions of Filipinos.

Presently, a DOH hospital can only increase its bed capacity through legislation. As such, adjusting the bed capacity of a public hospital to be able to better serve patients, especially the poor, has to compete with thousands of bills in Congress and more often than not, these do not get approved or once approved, the need has already changed.

By allowing the DOH to administratively set and approve the authorized bed capacity of its hospitals, we remove one barrier that impedes the efficient delivery of health service.

It is for these reasons that approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Tan'.

**ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.**  
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "DOH Hospital Bed Capacity Rationalization Act."

SEC. 2. This Act shall streamline the process for approving changes in the authorized bed capacities of all Department of Health (DOH) hospitals.

SEC. 3. - Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to adjust and approve the authorized bed capacities of all DOH hospitals. Thereafter, the DOH shall, through an administrative order, determine the bed capacities of DOH government hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that shall be issued and promulgated, within three (3) months after the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. The DOH shall provide Congress, through the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health and Demography of the Senate, an annual report of hospitals with approved bed capacity, along with the necessary funding requirements.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's programs the funding requirements for the increase in bed capacity of each of the hospital in accordance with the Philippine Hospital Development Plan and the Modernization/Development Plan of each hospital, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. The DOH shall formulate the rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days of its effectivity.

SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*