

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1502



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to improve the delivery of basic health service through the rationalization of the procedure in increasing the bed capacity of Department of Health (DOH) hospitals.

Currently there are 70 DOH-retained public hospitals nationwide, of which 53 are general hospitals, 14 specialty hospitals, two infirmaries and one psychiatric facility which complement the devolved district, provincial and private hospitals in providing health care services.

Apart from the low number of DOH hospitals around the country to adequately serve our ever-growing population, most of these hospitals are running way below their bed capacities, compounded by the lack of sufficient manpower, health services and health facilities. This sacrifices the quality health care for patients and makes it difficult to sustain the growing health needs of the population.

In 2016, the average bed occupancy rate of all DOH hospitals was 136 percent of its capacity and 61 percent of these hospitals had bed occupancy higher than the authorized bed capacity.

The current set-up allows the increase of bed capacities of DOH hospitals only through legislation. Legislation, however, is tedious and time-consuming which unnecessarily comprises the delivery of health services.

Hence, the need to rationalize the authority to increase the bed capacity of DOH hospitals by giving the Secretary of Health the task to administratively determine the necessary increase in accordance with Philippine Hospital Development Plan and the Modernization/Development Plan of each hospital. Not only will this expedite the process but properly give the authority to the agency which has expertise over the matter.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 and administrative order, determine the bed capacities of DOH government hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that shall be issued and promulgated, within three (3) years 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 hospitals 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 necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days of its effectivity.

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

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of

its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.