

Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1882



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many Southeast Asian countries require the installation closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in their hospitals. In Vietnam, medical establishments are compelled to have CCTV cameras to monitor the activities of their staff. In Malaysia, surveillance cameras are installed in operating rooms to ensure the safety of the patients.

The installation of surveillance cameras in hospitals offer a number of advantages not only to the patients but also the staff. First, footages of operations will be beneficial in cases of medical malpractice as both the patient and the doctor can refer to them to prove their cases. The instances of baby switching will also be minimized, if not completely avoided, when delivery rooms and nurseries have CCTV. Lastly, having CCTV cameras in hospital entrances and exits will provide additional security for all those in the hospital. Overall, cameras in hospitals prevent theft, smoking, and other various violations of the law on the premises.

Furthermore, this bill makes it criminal for any person to leak footages captured by the hospital CCTV camera without a court order thereby giving assurance to patients and medical staff that their privacy is protected.

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

  
**ALFRED VARGAS**

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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING HOSPITALS TO INSTALL CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)**  
**CAMERAS IN SELECTED PORTIONS OF THE HOSPITAL AND PENALIZING THE**  
**PUBLICATION OF THE VIDEO TAKEN BY THESE CAMERAS WITHOUT A**  
**COURT ORDER**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Hospital CCTV Act".

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the state to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Likewise, it is also the declared policy of the state to respect the privacy of individuals. In this regard, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras will be required in selected portions of a hospital but to ensure that the privacy of individuals concerned are protected, the video taken by these cameras cannot be released without a court order.

**SECTION 3. *Installation of Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) in Hospitals.*** - All hospitals in the Philippines should install CCTV cameras in all their entrance and exits, operating rooms, delivery room, intensive care units and nurseries.

**SECTION 4. *Privacy Request Paramount.*** - Notwithstanding Section 3, a patient or his legal guardian can request that the CCTV camera be turned off during his stay in the rooms mentioned in Section 3. In addition, in rooms with multiple occupants, a majority of the occupants should make the request to turn the CCTV camera off during their stay provided what whenever possible, the patient who does not want to be caught on CCTV camera may stay in a portion of the room not covered by the CCTV camera.

**SECTION 5. *Authorized Operator.*** – Only the authorized operator and the hospital director or his authorized representative is allowed access to the room where the footage of the CCTV cameras are monitored and stored.

**SECTION 6. *Prohibition on Unauthorized Publication.*** – Before any still photo or video caught by the CCTV cameras can be made public, a publication order from the Regional Trial Court having jurisdiction over the hospital should be obtained. A photo or video is considered as published when it is shown or made known to someone other than the proper administrative, law enforcement or judicial authorities.

**SECTION 7. *Penalties.*** – Any person who violates any provision of this Act will be punished by a minimum of five years and a maximum of ten years imprisonment and a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

**SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Health shall prescribe the necessary rules and regulations to implement this act.

**SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,