



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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7914

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OFFERING
MEDICAL DEGREES NATIONWIDE, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The need to improve public health services has been all the more highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, there are a lot more that should be improved in the Philippine healthcare system. One of which is to achieve the prescribed ratio of medical professionals to the population as well as increase the ratio of hospital beds to the population.

Data from the World Health Organization showed that the Philippines has only 12 doctors per 10,000 persons, and that a sizeable percentage of Filipinos rarely or never sees a healthcare professional. Moreover, the WHO data reflected that hospital beds in the country are only at 5 per 10,000 persons in 2009. The number of hospitals in the country has also barely increased in almost two decades.

The Philippine government's response to the global pandemic was challenged by the shortage of medical practitioners in the front line. A week after the announcement of a nationwide lockdown, the Department of Health (DOH) called for volunteer doctors and nurses.

To address these challenges, the proposed measure seeks to create new hospitals which will be attached to state colleges and universities (SUCs) offering medical degree programs. The presence of such hospitals within SUCs will provide a venue for medical students to train and acquire the necessary skills, experience, and expertise they need to practice their profession. An increase in the number of hospitals in the Philippines will also mean lower attrition rate of Filipino healthcare workers as more hospitals will be able to provide employment for them.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly


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THEREFOR

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 cited as the “Healthcare Facility Augmentation” Act.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The 1987 Constitution guarantees the right to health of the people and mandates the State to make health services available to all the people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State shall empower the state colleges and universities (SUCs) in the country to contribute in providing health care services to the community as well as enabling its medical students to have the appropriate training ground.

SEC. 3. Establishment of Hospitals in State Colleges and Universities.
– There is hereby established a hospital, with a bed capacity of not less than 50 beds, in every state university and college (SUC) offering a medical degree. The Department of Health (DOH), through its nearest regional hospital, and in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the concerned SUCs, shall provide the necessary technical assistance on the construction of said hospitals to ensure conformity with the standards set by the department.

The management and operations of the hospital including the hiring of required medical personnel shall be with the concerned SUCs: *Provided, That to*

ensure proper coordination with existing policies and programs of the DOH, the concerned SUCs shall elect or appoint the DOH Regional Director in the governing boards of the hospital: *Provided further*, That any income derived from the operation of the hospital shall be retained by the concerned SUCs to answer for expenses and upgrading cost of their hospitals: *Provided finally*, That hospitals established under this Act as well as those already existing in SUCs shall remain operational during public health emergencies including, but not limited to, outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics.

SEC. 4. *Construction and Site of the Hospital* – After a period of planning not exceeding one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Act, the hospital and the necessary equipment for its operations shall be established and put in place within the grounds of the concerned SUC: *Provided*, That the construction of the hospital shall be completed within five (5) years after the period of planning as stated under this Section.

SEC. 5. *Training for Medical Students* – Hospitals established under this Act as well as those already existing in SUCs shall serve as the training ground for medical students in the concerned SUCs: *Provided*, That graduates of the medical degree programs in the concerned SUCs who availed of a government scholarship program shall be required to render their return service in the hospital of the SUC which they graduated from.

SEC. 6. *Reportorial Requirements*. – The concerned SUCs shall submit through CHED, on an annual basis, a detailed report on the progress of the implementation of this Act to the Senate Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and Health and Demography, and the House Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Health.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall automatically be included in the annual appropriations of the SUCs for the next five years upon the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of the general circulation.

Approved,