

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE

S.B. No. 1682

18 FEB -7 P3 50

Introduced by Senator **SONNY ANGARA**

RECEIVED



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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Health services must be distributed equitably to the whole population in terms of modern equipment, upgraded facilities and medical professionals to ensure access and availability of hospital services to the Filipinos. As provided in Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution, "the state shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost." It is imperative that public health care must be affordable, effective and convenient. In fact, Republic Act No. 10606 or the "National Health Insurance Act of 2013" – which this Representation was one of the authors back in the House of Representatives – led to all Filipinos having quality access to healthcare as they are now covered by the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) regardless of their financial stature. We have also pushed legislations for both treatment and prevention of illnesses.

Unfortunately, with the increase in population, it is common for residents from far-flung provinces to travel for medical treatment purposes because of limited health services in their areas. The influx of patients leads to longer waiting time due to lack of available space in the hospital thus delaying the treatment. The patient needs to carry additional burden of sustaining the travel expenses which should be intended for his medical, surgical or therapeutic interventions.

According to data gathered by the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2015, six (6) out of ten (10) deaths are not medically attended, while in the 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey, only one (1) in every nine (9) Filipinos visited a health facility or sought advice/treatment (30 days preceding the survey). The quality

and coverage of public health services deteriorated particularly in the poor provinces. The maldistribution of hospital beds as well as limited and dilapidated facilities resulted in inaccessibility and inadequacy of hospital delivery system.

The 70 DOH retained public hospitals, of which 53 are general hospitals, 14 specialty hospitals, 2 infirmaries and 1 psychiatric facility complement the devolved district, provincial and private hospitals in providing health care services. In 2016, the average bed occupancy rate of all DOH Hospitals is 136%. Moreover, 61% of these hospitals have bed occupancy higher than the authorized bed capacity.

Presently, a DOH hospital can only increase its bed capacity and upgrade its service capability through legislation. The average duration of legislation process for this purpose is ranging from eight months to three years. The mismatch in bed occupancy compounded by lack of sufficient manpower and health services hinders the quality health care for patients and, if not very far, inadequate to sustain the growing health needs of the populace.

Cognizant of the above considerations, there is a need to expedite the process for providing quality health services to the Filipino people. This bill seeks to authorize the Department of Health to administratively determine and approve the bed capacity and service capability of all DOH hospitals as necessary. The DOH has the capacity and expertise to assess gaps in service delivery. By putting these government hospitals under the jurisdiction of the DOH, which manages these hospitals in the first place, shall increase the efficiency in the delivery of health services to sustain the increasing demands of patients.

In upholding the constitutional mandate to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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

1       **SECTION 1. Purpose, Scope, and Coverage.** – This Act shall streamline the  
2 process of approving changes in the authorized bed capacity and service capability  
3 of all DOH hospitals.

4       **SEC. 2. Authority to Approve.** – Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to  
5 adjust and approve the authorized bed capacity and service capability. Thereafter,  
6 the DOH shall, through an administrative order, determine the bed capacity and  
7 service capability of DOH hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that it shall issue  
8 and promulgate.

9       **SEC. 3. Conversion, Upgrading and Modernization of DOH Hospitals.** – The  
10 Department of Health shall upgrade and modernize the existing equipment and  
11 facilities of DOH hospitals to ensure that it shall be responsive to the health needs of  
12 the people commensurate to the bed capacity and service capability.

13       **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to implement and carry out  
14 the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of  
15 Health.

1       **SEC. 5. Annual Report to Congress.** – The Department of Health shall  
2 provide Congress, through the House and Senate Committees on Health, an annual  
3 report of hospitals with approved bed capacity and service capability, along with  
4 the necessary funding requirements.

5       **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – The Department of  
6 Health shall come up with the IRR, within ninety (90) days after the law's effectivity.

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

10       **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
12 circulation.

*Approved,*