

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL -7 1970

**SENATE**

**Senate Bill No. 668**

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**INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 18 Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.

One of the most neglected sectors among health professionals is the rural health physician. They have spent a fortune and labored in their studies to pursue their degrees. Yet while being loyal to the Oath of Hippocrates or the Hypocratic Oath to serve the medical needs of our people, their own well-being and their respective families are compromised because of meager salaries they receive from the government. This is the main reason why they leave their practice of profession in our country and seek greener pastures in other countries. As a result, the delivery of our health system suffers and majority of our people are deprived of medical care as the brain drain continues.

This bill seeks to avoid the further migration of rural health physicians by giving them higher incentive in terms of salary. In the long run, the rural health physicians will develop their medical specializations for the benefit of our people. It also enjoins local government elected officials to strictly comply with the Magna Carta for Rural Health Workers in giving the salaries and benefits due to public health physicians.

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

  
**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Senator

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AN ACT  
AMENDING SECTION 19 AND 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER  
SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FIVE (R.A. 7305) OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.

**SEC. 2.** Section 19 of Republic Act Number Seven Thousand and Five (RA 7305) otherwise known as the "Magna Carta of Public Health Workers" is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 19. *Salaries.* - In the determination of the salary scale of public health workers, the provisions of Republic Act No. 6758 shall govern, except that the benchmark for Rural Health Physicians shall be upgraded to GRADE 26.

**SEC. 3.** Section 39 of Republic Act Number Seven Thousand and Five (RA 7305) otherwise known as the "Magna Carta of Public Health Workers" is hereby amended to add the following paragraph to read as follows:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO WILLFULLY CIRCUMVENT OR VIOLATE THE GIVING OF SALARY, COMPENSATION, PAY AND ALLOWANCE OF PUBLIC RURAL HEALTH PHYSICIANS AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS AS PROVIDED IN RA 7305 SHALL BE A GROUND FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

**SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** All laws, orders, rules and regulations, parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect 30 days after its complete publication in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

*Approved,*