

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2346

Introduced by Hon. Eduardo C. Firmalo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is great urgency for the national government to revert to the Department of Health the control and supervision as well as the operation and maintenance of provincial, district, and municipal hospitals in poor provinces.

The operation and maintenance of such hospitals put great pressure upon the scarce funding resources of local governments in these provinces. We must admit that these poor provinces are not in the position to continue providing for the salaries and emoluments of hospital employees as well as the financial requirements for laboratory equipment, facilities, and medicines.

The government should take a different approach in rural development by first helping the LGUS in these provinces boost their revenues through income-generating activities. These provinces should first be able to develop self-reliance by enhancing its own revenue measures. Only then can it provide for essential services like health which presently eat up a big portion of its budgets.

Freed from this financial burden, these provinces may now allocate more funds for income-generating activities that will help build the local economy and promote greater financial stability for the LGUs of these provinces.

We , therefore, seek the approval of these measure.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eduardo C. Firmalo".

EDUARDO C. FIRMALO
Congressman
Lone District of Romblon

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AN ACT
REVERTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH THE FUNCTION AND
RESPONSIBILITY OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING PROVINCIAL, DISTRICT,
AND MUNICIPAL HOSPITALS IN TWENTY PRIORITY PROVINCES OF THE
COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

Section 1. All laws to the contrary notwithstanding, provincial, district, and municipal hospitals in the twenty (20) priority provinces of the country are hereby placed under the control and supervision of the Department of Health.

Sec. 2. The provinces mentioned in Sec. 1 hereof are the following: Abra, Agusan Del Sur, Antique, Apayao, Aurora, Basilan, Batanes, Benguet, Biliran, Eastern Samar, Guimaras, Ifugao, Kalinga, Masbate, Mountain Province, Romblon, Southern Leyte, Sulu, Surigao Del-Sur and Tawi-Tawi.

Sec. 3. Provinces which shall hereafter be classified by the National Economic and Development Authority as no longer belonging to the twenty priority provinces shall be excluded from the coverage of this Act and shall, therefore, assume the function and responsibility of operating and maintaining their hospitals.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of Health shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 5. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 6. This Act shall take effect immediately upon the approval of this Act.

Approved,