

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2437



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

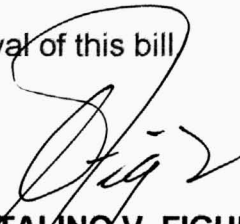
It is revealing that health care programs of the government, including Philhealth, are not familiar to rural folks. On the contrary, it would require extensive surveys to determine the preference of rural populations in regard to health care programs. However, there is a need for government to devolve its health care programs, including funds and resources, to local government units, thereby promoting health care extensively in municipal and rural barangays.

Basically, from general observation and consensus, there is urban and rural poor population preference for out-of-patient medical clinics offering free medical and dental services as in the current government health program, this is not however extensive, most without medical practitioners, and medical apparatus almost ill.

There is substantially plurality of population in the countryside than in highly urbanized municipalities and metropolitan cities and the five ranking diseases (NSO 1988), namely: pneumonia, heart diseases, tuberculosis, vascular system and accidents. Deaths attributable to those diseases have also predominance in the countryside in the same survey thus, the present skyrocketing costs of medication poses a bleak situation among urban and rural poor elsewhere in the country.

The devolution therefore of health care programs to the LGUs would address the situation and promote awareness to the local population.

Henceforth, the appeal for the approval of this bill


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
DEVOLVING THE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING FUNDS AND RESOURCES, TO THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS**

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

SECTION 1. Local Government Code of 1991 – Art. 24. Devolution, as cited by the code, as follows:

- (a) Consistent with local autonomy and decentralization, the provision for the delivery of basic services and facilities shall be devolved from the National Government to provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays so that each LGU shall be responsible for a minimum set of services and facilities in accordance with established national policies, guidelines and standards.
- (b) For purposes of this Rule, devolution shall mean the transfer of power and authority from the National Government to LGUs to enable them to perform specific functions and responsibilities.
- (c) Any subsequent change in national policies, guidelines and standards shall be subject to prior consultation with LGUs.

SECTION 2. *Art. 25. Responsibility for Delivery of Basic Services and Facilities.* The Code further states that the "LGUs shall, in addition to their existing functions and responsibilities, provide basic services and facilities devolved them covering, but not limited to the following, among others:

(b) health and social welfare services, through maintenance of barangay health and day care centers in the case of barangays. The implementation of programs and projects on primary health care, maternal and child care, and communicable and non-communicable disease control services, access to secondary and tertiary health services and purchase of medicines, medical supplies and equipment needed to carry out the devolved health services. Health services include hospitals and other tertiary health services in the case of provinces. The same barangay, municipal and provincial health services in the case of the city.

SECTION 3. Article 26 of the Local Government Code is hereby amended and shall therefore devolved health care program of the National Government, including funds and resources thereof, such as Philhealth

services, to the LGU notwithstanding that its one of the services funded by the National Government under the annual General Appropriations Act and other special laws and pertinent executive orders, and those wholly or partially funded from foreign sources.

SECTION 4. Medical and disability provisions for farm workers in entrepreneurial occupations should be initiated and subsidized by the health care programs devolved to the LGU's.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,