

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2542



Introduced by Representative Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to rename the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) in Cebu City into Southern Islands Medical Center, its former name by which it was and still is widely recognized until the present.

The present-day Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center was established on April 1, 1913. It was a 30-bed medical facility established in Cebu City to cater to the health needs of the people from the Visayas area. It was named "Hospital del Sur". It was later renamed Southern Islands Hospital on January 12, 1918 by which name it operated and was widely known for almost seventy-five years.

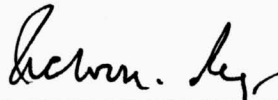
The hospital's name was again changed into its present name - Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center on June 21, 1992 by virtue of Republic Act 7582.

With due respect to the late senator in whose memory and honor the hospital's present name was dedicated, the change of name - from Southern Islands Hospital to Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center - was unnecessary and improper not only for the fact that no public hearing was conducted for this purpose, but primarily for the reason that the hospital has generated goodwill in its long years of operation and has been enshired in the American Cultural Heritage Archive in Washington D.C. by the name Southern Island Hospital.

The name Southern Islands has played and is still playing a significant and unique role in the countless lives that it has touched not only from the Visayas region but also from Mindanao and honoring a distinguished leader is not reason enough to defeat this especially that there exists no significant relation between the facility and the person in whose honor and memory it is so named.

Therefore, with the passage of this bill, we will not only be giving back the hospital its name by which it has touched the lives of its patients, personnel and their families but we will also be preserving a significant cultural heritage that the name Southern Islands Hospital has generated for the Filipino people and the rich experience it has shared with the community.

It is on these premises that the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ, M.D.

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**AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE VICENTE SOTTO MEMORIAL
MEDICAL CENTER, CEBU CITY, REINSTATING ITS FORMER
NAME "SOUTHERN ISLANDS MEDICAL CENTER"**

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

SECTION 1. The name of the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City (VSMMC) is hereby changed, reinstating the hospital's former name - Southern Islands Medical Center.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.