

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 3251



Introduced by IGNACIO T. ARROYO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to promote the right to health and well-being of the people and to adopt a system of effecting the delivery of free medicine to those who have less in life, giving priority to the underprivileged, the sick, the elderly, the disabled and the poorest of the poor.

It is therefore imperative that we establish a Free Medicine Assistance Program that will serve to address the health care problem in the country. It is only by providing free medicine assistance to people who are in need that we can truly make a reality the declared policy of the State.

In view of this, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IGNACIO T. ARROYO
Representative
5th District, Negros Occidental

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FREE MEDICINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE
POOR AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Free Medicine Assistance Act of 2004.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to promote the right to health and well-being of the people and to adopt a system of effecting the delivery of free medicine to those who have less in life, giving priority to the underprivileged, the sick, the elderly, the disabled and the poorest of the poor.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Free Medicine Assistance Program.* – There is hereby established a Free Medicine Assistance Program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program”, to be administered by the Department of Health through its authorized government hospital in each particular congressional district, to be known as the health district, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

SECTION 4. *Eligible Beneficiaries.* – The Program shall be limited to eligible beneficiaries to be identified by the Department of Health through the government hospital in the health district in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The implementing rules and regulations shall see to it that the intended beneficiaries come from the ranks of the poorest of the poor, the Program being strictly a poverty alleviation measure.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – There is hereby appropriated the sum of FIVE MILLION (P 5, 000,000.00) PESOS for each health district to fund the initial requirements of this Act. The National Government shall subsequently include in the budget of the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act such amount as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health, jointly with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provision of this Act within six (6) months from the effectivity hereof.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publications in one (1) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,