

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **1633**

Introduced by Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr. and
Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The delivery of health and medical services to the poor people in our country has already reached its critical level as shown by the proportion of patients vis-à-vis the time spent on these services during regular hours.

In cases where medical attention is badly needed, the idea of 24-hour health centers come to mind. Thus, there is an urgent need to ease the situation by extending the working hours of public health centers beyond regular day time schedules to meet the ever-growing need for medical attention.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought



MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.



RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC HEALTH CENTERS TO BE OPEN AT ALL TIMES
TO PROVIDE CONTINUOUS HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES TO THE
PUBLIC

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

SECTION 1. Continuous Service of Public Health Centers. - All public health centers shall be open at all times of the day and night to provide continuous health and medical services to the public.

SEC. 2. Adjustment of Working Hours. - Regional health directors and local government health officers, as the case may be, shall strengthen their respective personnel forces and schedule their work hours accordingly.

SEC. 3. Funding. - The amount necessary to implement the provision of this Act is hereby authorized to be taken from unappropriated funds of the General Appropriations Act in the case of regional health center, and from unappropriated funds of local governments: *Provided*, That thereafter, the amount needed to maintain continuous health service shall be included in the General Appropriations Act and in local government budgets, respectively.

SEC. 4. Separability Clause. - If any provision or section of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the other sections, and the application of such provisions or sections to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders or regulations or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.