

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5452**

Introduced by the **Honorable Anthony Rolando T. Golez, Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipinos who passed the Physician Licensure Exams are often faced with a quandary, whether to practice in private or public hospitals. More often than not, doctors prefer to practice in private hospitals because of the lure of higher pay; this results to positions for medical personnel in government hospitals in far-flung areas in provinces unfilled. Working abroad is also an option that Filipino doctors choose, thinking of greater economic return in exchange to the services they render. These issues leave the people in the provinces without any doctor, rendering efforts of the government to give proper healthcare to all Filipinos inadequate.

Requiring would be doctors to render medical services in far-flung areas in the provinces will address many things. It will resolve the issue of lack of medical professionals in the provinces. It will answer the lack of proper compensation to doctors who just passed the board exams. It will provide additional hands-on training and experience to doctors. It will buffer the exodus of doctors to other countries. It will work as a tool to encourage doctors to work and serve the poor in public hospitals; giving them a taste of fulfillment in helping the poor may somehow encourage the doctors to stay in the hospitals in provinces.

The bill aims to provide a system that would greatly contribute in the improvement of healthcare in the Philippines. It also instills love for the country and service to the poor. There are lots of opportunities for doctors in the provinces and the State should show these to the doctors; not just for the benefit of the healthcare professionals but also for the sake of the sick and the poor.

The period of six (6) months is a relatively short time for doctors to spend in rendering their expertise to the needy and less-fortunate. The State should encourage doctors to practice their profession in service to the nation. This proposed law is aimed for that purpose.

Approval of the bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. R. G. S.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5452

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**"AN ACT MANDATING EXAMINEES WHO
PASSED THE MEDICAL BOARD EXAMS
TO RENDER SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Service to Country of Physicians Act".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is a policy of the state to provide the proper healthcare to all Filipinos. The state shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to healthcare, it shall exert utmost effort to make essential medical services and goods available to all Filipinos at an affordable cost.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

a) Act – shall refer to the "Service to Country of Physicians Act"

b) Medical Board – shall pertain to the body that regulates the practice of the medical profession.

- c) DOH – shall refer to the Department of Health
- d) DILG – shall refer to the Department of Interior and Local Government
- e) PRC – shall refer to the Professional Regulation Commission
- f) Priority Areas – shall pertain to areas where the people is in dire need of medical care personnel and do not have existing medical personnel.
- g) Hospital and Medical Facility – shall refer to any government medical facility.
- h) Temporary License – shall refer to the license to be issued by the Medical Board to examinees of the Physician Licensure Exam and shall be used for purposes of rendering medical services in priority areas.

Section 4. Issuance of Temporary License and Practice in Priority Areas. The Medical Board shall issue a Temporary License to all who passed the Physician Licensure Exam. The Temporary License shall be issued two (2) weeks after the release of the names of those who passed and it shall be used only for the purpose of rendering medical services in Hospitals or Medical Facilities in Priority Areas. The Temporary License shall be valid for six (6) months while the board exam passer renders medical services Hospitals or Medical Facilities in Priority Areas.

A person holding a Temporary License shall be entitled to appointment in a position for medical personnel in Hospitals or Medical Facilities in Priority Areas and receive the corresponding emoluments thereto. In the absence of positions for medical personnel in Hospitals or Medical Facilities, a person who shall render medical services, using a Temporary License pursuant to this Act, will be given the proper compensation.

Section 5. Issuance of Permanent License. All examinees who passed the Physician Licensure Exam and have been issued the Temporary License shall have the right to apply for the issuance of a Permanent License with the Medical Board. The Medical Board shall only issue a Permanent License after verifying with the proper Hospital or Medical Facility that the examinee have rendered medical services, using his Temporary License, in a Hospital or Medical Facility in a Priority Area.

Section 6. Identification of Priority Areas. The DOH and the DILG shall identify the Priority Areas. Hospitals and Medical Facilities that have unfilled positions

for medical personnel shall be part of the Priority Areas that will be identified by the DOH and DILG. Far-flung areas in provinces shall be the initial places that will be identified as Priority Areas.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Medical Board, in coordination with the DOH and the PRC, shall formulate and issue the Rules and Regulations implementing this Act within thirty (30) days upon its effectivity.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,