

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6473



Introduced by HON. RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS
1st District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article II (Declaration of Principles and State Policies) of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines specifically states that: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." This is discussed under Article XIII, Sections 11 to 13, as an aspect of social justice. (See also IV RECORD of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 904-909, 912-916) The Philippines is party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Alma Declaration of 1978 which recognize health as a fundamental human right. Health is defined as the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. (III RECORD of the Constitutional Commission at 119)

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines specifically provides: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers." The key concepts on this section are "integrated and comprehensive" and "affordable." Integration connotes a unified health delivery system, a combination of public and private sector, and a blend of western medicine and traditional health care modalities. Comprehensiveness includes health promotion, disease prevention, education, and planning. These are premised on the understanding that the high level of health of a people and of a country can be achieved only through a combination of social, economic, political and cultural conditions. (Id at 119-120)

Free medical care should be extended to paupers, a concept which means those who have no source of livelihood, or, even if they have sources of livelihood, live a hand-to-mouth existence. (II RECORD 718) It should be noted that, although the right to health should be enjoyed by all, Sections 11 to 13 of Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines express a clear bias for the underprivileged. (Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J., The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines: A Commentary 2009 ed.)

The Bohol Provincial Hospital was constructed under Act No. 3114 and was officially opened on October 19, 1929. It was designated as a Regional Teaching and Training Hospital for Region VII pursuant to Administrative Order No. 38, series of 1980 by the Ministry of Health. It was then renamed from Bohol Provincial Hospital to Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital (GCGMH) in 1984 per Batas Pambansa Blg. 640.

The GCGMH started with an eight (8) bed capacity when it opened in 1929. Later, to accommodate the increasing number of patients in Tagbilaran City and in the neighboring municipalities, the bed capacity was increased to one hundred fifty (150),

then to two (200) and finally to two hundred twenty five (225) beds under Republic Act No. 7266 which was enacted on March 20, 1992.

After more than twenty (20) years, there has been no increase in bed capacity despite the rapid population growth in Tagbilaran City and in the Province of Bohol. With the said population growth of the city and the province, along with the increase in number of patients, there are instances that patients in GCGMH have to share beds. This gave rise to lot of diseases and medical problems closely associated with urbanization, which naturally cause the continuing increase in the number of indigent patients needing medical treatment at the GCGMH. It is not difficult to imagine that a considerable number of patients are not accommodated at once and many have to wait for their turn due to lack of available bed space in GCGMH.

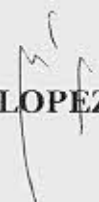
Together with the filing of this bill to increase the bed capacity of GCGMH is the upgrading of medical facilities and equipment. Statistical records show that the number of patients needing higher level of radiologic examination results is increasing due to the apparent number of victims from vehicular accidents. Based on case study reports for the last five (5) years, transport accident is one of the top ten (10) causes of mortality and morbidity.

In the Surgical Department of GCGMH, more state of the art equipment have to be acquired to meet the standard requirement for quality patient care in a level four (4) hospital like the GCGMH. Being a regional hospital for Region 7, it is aiming for a quality medical service not only to the Boholanos but to the whole Visayas Region.

The hospital has now grown up tremendously after 83 years of serving the sick Boholano people. Number of major services has increased from three (3) to four (4) to meet the needs of the patients.

This bill seeks to increase the bed capacity of Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital (GCGMH) in Tagbilaran City, Province of Bohol from two hundred twenty five (225) to four hundred ten (410) beds, amending for the purpose Republic Act 7266.

In the light of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is strongly recommended.


RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS

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Introduced by **HON. RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS**
1st District, Bohol

AN ACT
INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (GCGMH) IN TAGBILARAN CITY, PROVINCE OF
BOHOL FROM TWO HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE (225) TO FOUR HUNDRED
TEN (410) BEDS, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL
PERSONNEL, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES AND
PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7266 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Increase in Authorized Bed Capacity. – The authorized bed capacity of Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital (GCGMH) is hereby increased from two hundred twenty five (225) to four hundred ten (410) beds, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 7266.

SEC. 2. Increase of Manpower Requirement. – The existing manpower requirement of GCGMH is correspondingly increased to conform with Section 1 hereof. The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall determine and approve the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up upon prior consultation and recommendation by the GCGMH.

SEC. 3. Upgrade of Existing Service Facilities and Professional Health Care Services. – The existing service facilities and professional health care services of the GCGMH are hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the increase in authorized bed capacity as provided in Section 1 hereof. The GCGMH shall submit to the DOH its proposed development plan and the additional clinical departments and special units it requires to meet the increased authorized bed capacity.

SEC. 4. Period of Implementation. – The increase in authorized bed capacity from two hundred twenty five (225) to four hundred ten (410) beds shall be implemented for a period of not more than five (5) years from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 5. Implementation and Appropriation. – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,