

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 000 **178**



Introduced by BAYAN MUNA
Reps. NERI J. COLMENARES and CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE

AN ACT
UPGRADING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE OF GOVERNMENT NURSES
FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO 15

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to upgrade the minimum salary grade level of public nurses to provide them with just compensation and to encourage more health workers to work in government hospitals instead of going abroad.

In 2002, when Congress passed the Philippine Nursing Act or Republic Act No. 9173, public nurses all over the country thought it was to be a reprieve from their long sentence of inhumanely low wages. However, year after year, it was proven to be an empty promise, with the government failing to allocate funds for its implementation.

Amid the clamor of health groups and the continuing increase in the daily cost of living, government failed to provide for public nurses. This resulted in registered nurses seeking jobs abroad or in unrelated industries.

Despite the mushrooming of nursing schools and the large number of graduates, there is a shortage of working nurses in the country.

According to the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW), "Nurses who are supposed to be given at least P24,887, the wage allotted for salary grade 15 as provided for by the Nursing Act of 2002, receives only P15,649 or the amount being received by those in salary grade 11.

The SSL3 or the Joint Resolution No. 4 claimed to respond to the state health workers' plea but it instead downgraded the salaries.

Jossel Ebcsate, president of the AHW, said "It's like we also lost out on the substantial provisions of the Philippine Nursing Act (because of the passage of the SSL3). The Department of Health and the Department of Budget Management told us that, given the salary increases stipulated in SSL-3, what we'll get would be as good as what's in the Nursing Act. But the salary grade of public

hospital nurses will only rise up to SG-11, even as the Nursing Act stipulated that it should be SG-15.”

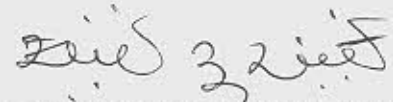
To rectify what has been a gross neglect of the welfare of our nurses, we propose the re-upgrading of the minimum salary grade level of public nurses from salary grade 11 to salary grade 15 and those occupying higher positions be adjusted accordingly.

In this light, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Approved,



Rep. **NERI J. COLMENARES**
Bayan Muna Party-list



Rep. **CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**
Bayan Muna Party-list

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SALARY GRADE 11 to 15

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as "The Government Nurses' Salary Upgrading Act of 2013."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the Government's concern and responsibility to provide adequate remuneration for health workers to enhance general welfare and to attract and retain its rightful share of talents with the end in view of fulfilling the state policy of providing essential health services to all Filipinos.

SECTION 3. *Raising of the Minimum Salary Grade Level.* The present minimum salary grade of government nurses (Nurse I) shall be upgraded from Salary Grade 11 to Salary Grade 15. Salary grade levels of those occupying higher positions shall be adjusted accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* This Act shall cover all nurses in public hospitals and other health institutions, whether nationally or locally funded.

SECTION 5. *Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Health and the Department of Budget and Management shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Appropriation.* The Government shall appropriate such amount as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act. Initial funds required for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the savings of the Executive Branch of the government and other possible sources that may be determined by the Office of the President. The subsequent funds needed shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Constitutionality.* Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity or constitutionality of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, letters of instructions, resolutions, orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,