

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3438**



Introduced by **HON. FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

This bill seeks to establish the Soccsksargen General Hospital in the Municipality of Surallah, South Cotabato to improve access to medical services and a modern health facility for the 4.11 million Filipinos in Regional XII.

DOH-XII presently runs the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center in Cotabato City but most of its patients come from said City and Maguindanao province, which is part of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). This has meant that patients from most parts of Region XII who need special medical attention are brought to Davao City instead of Cotabato City due to distance and security concerns, effectively rendering Soccsksargen with no regional health facility of its own.

A feasibility study provided by the Provincial Health Officer and DOH Center for Health Development (CHD) -- XII has recommended the establishment of a separate regional health facility for Region XII. Economic and public health benefits are likely to proceed from the establishment of the Soccsksargen General Hospital, according to the feasibility study. Among the expected benefits include reduced morbidity, lower mortality and savings in terms of medical expenses in the region.

Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution provides that 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.*" I enjoin all my honorable colleagues from the 16th Congress to help realize this Constitutional mandate for millions of Filipinos in Region XII with a prompt consideration and approval of this measure.


FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

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HOUSE BILL NO. **3438**

Introduced by Honorable Ferdinand L. Hernandez

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SEC. 1. *SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital Establishment.* – The SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato, is hereby created to serve as the regional health facility of the Department of Health in Region XII or the SOCCSKSARGEN area.

SEC. 2. *Establishment Plan.* – The establishment of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital shall be carried out by the Central Office of the Department of Health in consultation and coordination with local government officials and the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA).

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital, the initial funding of which shall be charged against its current year's appropriations. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. *Supplementary Funding.* – The Center for Health Development XII Regional Director and the Chief of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital, in coordination with concerned local government units, shall also draw up a mechanism for sourcing supplementary funds to augment the operations of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,