

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Congressional Hills, Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3598

Introduced by **Representative Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a developing country like the Philippines, education is vital to national growth. In the 1987 Constitution, it is prioritized for its role in social progress and development. Therefore, a special attention must be provided to the men and women who are the heart of the education sector, Teachers.

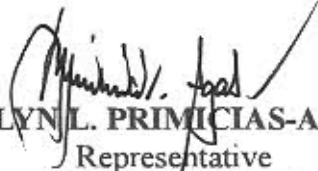
The Constitution provides that "The State shall enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement." We are all aware of the state of the teaching profession (or rather, teaching vocation) of our country. We have teachers who cross mountains and lakes every day just to serve the schools they were assigned to. We also have those who sacrifice their lives during the election season. Teachers not only educate the future of this nation with numbers and figures; they impart their students the values of an industrious, persevering Filipino.

However, due to the difficulties of their work, our teachers are exposed to health risk. The most common illnesses teachers suffer from are work-related pharyngitis, hypertension, anemia, and hyperacidity, among others. The State must provide health

facilities that specifically provide the needs of teachers in view of the significant part they play in educating our youth and in nation-building.

The bill proposes the formation of a special hospital, the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL, in the National Capital Region as the primary medical facility for the hospitalization and medical care of teachers and their dependents. Also, all regional hospitals shall be required to establish a teachers' ward to provide medical services to teachers and their dependents residing outside the National Capital Region.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS
Representative
Sixth District, Pangasinan

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL FOR TEACHERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHE PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Teachers’ Hospital Act.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State shall protect the interest and promote the well-being of Filipino teachers, including their families and dependents through the provision of social welfare services.

Section 3. Creation of a Special Hospital and Special Wards. – To carry-out the above policy, a special hospital for teachers, to be named the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS’ HOSPITAL, shall hereby be established in the National Capital Region. Such hospital

shall be the primary medical facility for the hospitalization and medical care of teachers and their dependents.

Each regional hospital shall establish a teachers' ward, with an initial capacity of at least fifty (50) beds, which will provide hospitalization and medical care to teachers and their dependents residing outside the National Capital Region.

For purposes of this Act, "teachers" shall include, but not limited, to the following:

- a) All persons engaged in the classroom teaching of any subject, including practical/vocational arts, at the day-care, pre-school, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels of instruction in all public and private educational institutions;
- b) Individuals performing guidance and counseling in all public and private institutions;
- c) All persons who provide instructional supervision in all public and private educational institutions;
- d) All persons employed as school administrative support employees;
- e) School physicians, school dentists, and school nurses;
- f) Officials and employees of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and
- g) Graduates of education who have passed the government examination for teachers, although not actually employed as such.

"Dependents" shall refer to the following: (a) the legitimate spouse dependent for support upon the teacher; (b) the legitimate, illegitimate, or legally adopted children, chiefly dependent upon and living with the teacher if such child is not more than twenty-one (21) years of age, unmarried and not gainfully employed or is over the age of majority but incapacitated and incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical defect; and (c) the parents dependent upon the member for support.

Section 4. Objectives. – To ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of quality health care, the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL shall:

- a) Provide for a comprehensive/total health care services to all teachers and their legal dependents;
- b) Complement the existing package of services under the National Health Insurance Program so as to include preventive, promotive, diagnostic, curative, and rehabilitative programs;
- c) Conduct medical examination to ensure the physical and mental capability of all teacher applicants; and
- d) Set-up a system that will effectively monitor the condition of patients and to generate relevant information/data in aid of policy formulation.

Section 5. Administration. – Upon effectivity of this Act, the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL shall be administered by a Board of Directors consisting of:

- a) The Secretary of the Department of Education as ex-officio Chairman
- b) The Secretary of the Department of Health as ex-officio Vice Chairman
- c) The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education as ex-officio Member
- d) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development as ex-officio Member
- e) Three representatives from the teachers' sector: one (1) from Luzon, one (1) from Visayas, one (1) from Mindanao as Members

The three (3) representatives from the teachers' sector shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from a list of nominees prepared by the ex-officio Chairman to serve for a term of three (3) years without reappointment.

Section 6. Responsibility and Powers. – The Board of Directors of the PHILIPPINES TEACHERS' HOSPITAL shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

- a) To formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the objective and purposes of the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL as enunciated in Section 4 of this Act;
- b) To organized the structure of the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL in accordance with a staffing pattern prepared by it and approved by the Department of Budget and Management; to appoint the officials and employees of the Hospital, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations; to prescribe their duties and fix their compensation subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 6758;
- c) To enter into agreements and contracts in connection with its establishment, maintenance, operation and objectives;
- d) To issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Act; and
- e) To perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

Section 7. Appropriation. – An amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the establishment and initial operations of the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL. Subsequently, appropriations for the operations shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such sections or parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,