

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

H. B. No. 5413



Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution declares, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

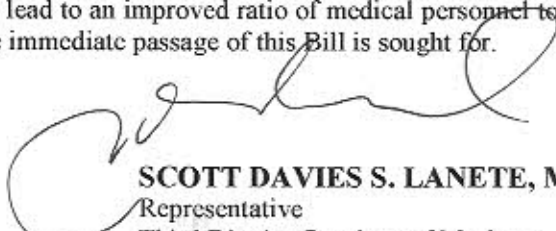
On the other hand, Article 2, Section 23 of the 1987 Constitution declares, "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare."

However, the State is unable to provide adequate health services if government nurses, pharmacists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, medical technicians and radiology technicians, considered as the backbone of every hospital, are suffering from disillusionment and low morale brought about by insufficient salaries and lack of financial benefits. Thus, the country continues to be saddled with a poor healthcare sector caused primarily by the low ratio of nurses and health care personnel-to-patient as duly licensed nurses and other medical personnel opt to bring their services either to greener pastures abroad or to other relatively lucrative sectors which do not involve the practice of their profession.

With the passing of Republic Act No. 9173 otherwise known as the Nursing Act of 2002, it was envisioned that the above-mentioned problem would be solved as the salary grade of government nurses was upgraded from SG 11 to 15. It was also hoped for that a law providing for the same benefits would be passed in favor of health care personnel.

However, according to Nurses for Change Movement, the basic monthly salary of a nurse is still around SG 11 or equivalent to PhP15,649.00 or less compared to their supposed earning of around PhP22,688.00. This is due to the Executive Branch's reluctance in enforcing the salary grade increase as it will allegedly strain the country's coffers. Sadly, R.A. No. 9173 was left like a toothless tiger as it lacked sufficient mechanisms in order to implement said salary grade increase. In addition, the much anticipated law governing benefits for health care personnel has yet to reach the surface of reality.

Hence, this Bill seeks to add tooth to R.A. 9173 by appropriating funds for the increase in salary grade of government nurses, pharmacists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, medical technicians and radiology technicians. By doing so, a salary increase for nurses, pharmacists and other health care personnel shall be mandated and there can no longer be any excuse for the Executive Branch in resisting such. Through this Bill, more will be encouraged to work in the government hospitals which will necessarily lead to an improved ratio of medical personnel to patient and better healthcare services. Therefore, the immediate passage of this Bill is sought for.


SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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Introduced by **HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE SALARY GRADE OF GOVERNMENT
NURSES, PHARMACISTS, SPEECH THERAPISTS, OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPISTS, PHYSICAL THERAPISTS, MEDICAL TECHNICIANS,
RADIOLOGY TECHNICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL,
GRANT OF ALLOWANCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to continuously promote and improve the social and economic well-being of government nurses and health care personnel as well as their living and working conditions to help ensure, promote and maintain the delivery of basic health services.

SECTION 2. Coverage. - The provision of the Act shall apply to all nurses, pharmacists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, medical technicians, radiology technicians and other health care personnel employed in government hospitals. As used in this Act, "nurses" refers to graduates of a degree in Nursing and duly certified by the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) who are employed by the national government or a local government unit, as the case may be, either in public health institutions or in any government or a local government unit, as the case may be, either in public health institutions or in any government agency or instrumentality. In addition, "health care personnel" shall mean all persons who are engaged in health and health-related work, and all persons employed in all hospitals, sanatoria, health infirmaries, health centers, rural health units, barangay health stations, clinics and other health-related establishments owned and operated by the Government or its political subdivisions with original charters and shall include medical, allied health professional, administrative and support personnel employed regardless of their employment status.

SECTION 3. Salary Grade Adjustment. - The minimum base pay of nurses and pharmacists working in government shall not be lower than Salary Grade 15 prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the Compensation and Classification Act of 1989. While the minimum base pay of speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, medical technicians, radiology technicians and other health care personnel shall not be lower than Salary Grade 13 prescribed under the Compensation and Classification Act of 1989.

SECTION 4. Allowances. In addition to the base pay, nurses and pharmacists working in government shall receive at least One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php1,500.00) every month as allowance while speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, medical technicians, radiology technicians and other health care personnel shall be entitled to a monthly allowance of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00).

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars, and memoranda inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. - Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other provisions hereof shall be thereby affected.

SECTION 7. Appropriation. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act for the first five (5) years shall be sourced out from the gross annual revenues of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and thereafter in a special fund to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall, within sixty (60) days after its approval prepare and issue the necessary guidelines to implement the same.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,