

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

H. B. No. 5414



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

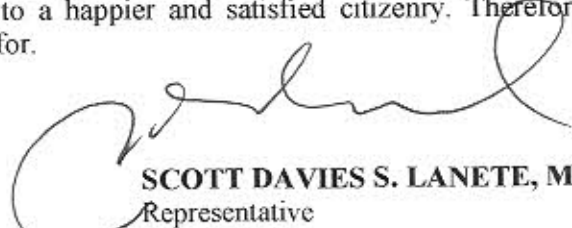
EXPLANATORY NOTE

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."

Numerous articles have surfaced confirming and supporting the old adage, "laughter is the best medicine." Due to the increasing number of patients in every hospital coupled with an upsurge of new kinds of diseases requiring special medical attention, the State is left with no recourse but to explore alternative modes of health care. Studies show that humor therapy helps patients relax primarily aiding them in dealing and accepting pain. Although it is unproven that laughter has a direct causation with health improvement, it cannot be denied that it reduces stress and enhances a person's quality of life. This is particularly applicable to cancer patients who need every bit of optimism as they face seemingly never-ending sessions of chemotherapy, which, needless to say, involves a huge degree of pain.

Many hospitals and treatment centers around the world have set up special rooms with humorous materials for the purpose of making people laugh, such as movies, audio recordings, books, games, and puzzles. Many hospitals use volunteers who visit patients for the purpose of making them laugh. Some cancer treatment centers offer humor therapy in addition to standard treatments.¹ However, the Philippines has yet to apply this simple yet effective medical innovation.

Hence, this Bill seeks to improve health care services by mandating the establishment of humor wards in public and private hospitals. By doing so, the State will be fulfilling its responsibility in promoting the health of its people and provide its citizens additional aid in combating illness. Through this Bill, it is envisioned that there will be an improvement in the health care industry that will translate to a happier and satisfied citizenry. Therefore, the immediate passage of this Bill is sought for.



SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

¹<http://www.cancer.org/treatment/treatmentsandsideeffects/complementaryandalternativemedicine/mindbodyandspirit/humor-therapy>

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HUMOR WARDS
IN ALL HOSPITALS 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 people's right to health.

SECTION 2. *Coverage.* - The provision of the Act shall apply to all public and privately owned hospitals.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, a Humor Ward shall refer to a room with a seat capacity of at least twenty (20) persons specially and contains humorous materials designed to make people laugh, such as but not limited to, movies, audio recordings, books, games, and puzzles.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Humor Wards.* - All hospitals covered in this Act are hereby mandated to establish a Humor Ward that shall offer humor therapy free of charge. Each Humor Ward shall be equipped with adequate number of personnel preferably nurses and qualified to induce laughter among patients.

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 Health (DOH), 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,