

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6217

Introduced by Representative Rodrigo A. Abellanos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to alleviate the burden of necessary but costly dialysis treatments for indigent patients by ensuring the availability of facilities and providing free access to such in all government hospitals.

Dialysis is the medical procedure that facilitates the removal of waste products and excess fluid from the body in patients whose kidney function are insufficient to be able to do so. All patients who suffer from end-stage renal failure must undergo dialysis in order for them to survive, hence, the procedure is not optional.

Indigent patients hardly have the means to provide for their ordinary daily sustenance, moreso afford expensive dialysis treatments. Our Constitution mandates the government to make health services available and affordable to all prioritizing the underprivileged. In connection with this, the provision of free and accessible dialysis procedure is imperative.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. Abellanos", enclosed within a simple circular outline.

RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT
IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO
INDIGENT PATIENTS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Dialysis Center Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - it is the declared policy of the State to improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the people.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) "Secretary" shall refer to the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- b) "National Government Hospital" shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- c) "Regional Government Hospital" shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- d) "Provincial Government Hospital" shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the provincial government or other political subdivision, or by any department division, board or other agency thereof; and,
- e) "Indigent Patient" shall refer to a patient whose combined annual family income does not exceed Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) annually.

SEC. 4. *Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward or Unit.* - Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their hospital. The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies.

SEC. 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.* - Dialysis treatment in all national, regional and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients.

SEC. 6. *Penalty.* - Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Pi 00,000.00).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* - Such amount as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital's annual appropriations.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,