



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **4712**

Introduced By:
REP. FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II
1ST District, Surigao del Norte (*Siargao Island*)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

During the past few years, there has been an influx of local and foreign tourists in Siargao Island. The increase in tourist arrivals, in the last couple of years, has been unprecedented. It only started with around 38,000 tourists in 2010. However, by 2014, the island has been receiving around 100,000 tourists a year. This number is expected to increase with the proposed upgrade of the Sayak Airport or Siargao Airport.

It is unfortunate, however, that while there has been an increase in tourist arrivals in the Island, there is no hospital, especially in the Municipality of General Luna, where most resorts and other tourism infrastructures are located, to address the medical needs of these tourists. While there are four (4) district hospitals in the Island, they are only able to address minor injuries and diseases. Major or serious matters need to be referred to Cebu City or to Surigao City, which is a 3-hour boat ride from Siargao Island.

Indeed, now that Siargao Island has become a major tourist destination, it must also be able to provide for the basic medical services needed by its visitors. In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II



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HOUSE BILL NO. **4712**

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOSPITAL, IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL LUNA, SURIGAO DEL NORTE, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE "SIARGAO TOURISTS' HEALTH SERVICE", AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. There shall be established under the direct supervision of
2 the Department of Health, a hospital in the Municipality of General Luna,
3 Province of Surigao Del Norte, to be known as the "Siargao Tourists' Health
4 Service".

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6 SEC.2. The hospital shall be a twenty-five (25)-bed capacity general
7 hospital which will primarily cater to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of
8 tourists and guests visiting the Siargao Islands and the province of Surigao
9 Del Norte.

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11 SEC.3. The Department of Health shall promulgate the rules and
12 regulations necessary to carry into effect the purposes of this Act.

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14 SEC. 4. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
15 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its
16 enactment into law and every year thereafter.

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18 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in the
19 *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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21 *Approved.*