

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5272



Introduced by Honorable Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the bed capacity of the Schistosomiasis Hospital located in Palo, Leyte.

The bill is in fulfillment of the constitutional mandate to protect and promote the right to health of the people. It also aims to make essential health services available to the people at an affordable cost. Furthermore, elimination of poor quality and undignified care in public hospitals is one of the goals of the Philippine Health Agenda 2016-2022.

The Schistosomiasis Hospital is the only hospital in the Philippines recognized for Schistosomiasis infection management. It was established to conduct treatment, management and research for Schistosomiasis. Since 1982, when the hospital began its full operation, the 25-bed capacity has not yet increased despite the influx of patients and increase of services offered by the institution. In addition to Schistosomiasis infection management, the hospital is also offering services related to the following specialties: Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Anesthesia, Internal Medicine, and General Surgery. Moreover, it has also recently offered radiologic services to the patients.

The financial support of the Department of Health can only provide for 25 beds. However, the reality is that the hospital accommodates an average of 61.5 admitted patients (2016) per day, reaching a peak of 75-80 admitted patients. Therefore, it is imperative that the bed capacity be increased to 100 beds in order that there would be no overcrowding of patients.

The hospital continues to provide decent health care services to its patients, not only in Leyte, but also in surrounding areas. Additionally, it is anticipating a surge in the number of clients as the other DOH-retained hospital which covers the area will be transferred.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO
Representative, 1st District, Samar



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HOUSE BILL NO. 5272

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AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SCHISTOSOMIASIS HOSPITAL IN PALO, LEYTE FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) TO ONE HUNDRED (100), UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

Be It enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

SECTION 1. The authorized bed capacity of the Schistosomiasis Hospital in Palo, Leyte is hereby upgraded from twenty-five (25) to one hundred (100) beds.

SECTION 2. The existing service facilities and professional health care services of the Schistosomiasis Hospital are hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the bed capacity increase as provided for in Section 1 hereof.

SECTION 3. The existing workforce shall be correspondingly increased. The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, and Civil Service Commission, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up upon prior consultation with the Schistosomiasis Hospital.

SECTION 4. The increase in bed capacity of the Schistosomiasis Hospital from twenty-five (25) to one hundred (100) beds shall be implemented for a period of not more than one (1) year from the approval of this Act.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of the Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.