

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7122

Introduced by Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In this age of the internet, technology is an enabler, one that continuously removes barriers and gaps in the delivery of government services.

One such gap that can be bridged by technology is the doctor-to-patient ratio. In 2016, reports from the Department of Health revealed that the country lacks 15,000 doctors and the present ratio of patients to every doctor is 33,000. This is very far as compared to the World Health Organization's prescribed ratio of 1 is to 10,000.

The distressing situation of public health service delivery requires an immediate action from the government considering the significant role of health in nation-building. This legislation aims to promote the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in solving problems rampant in the health care system.


CONG. SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.
Representative
1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7122

Introduced by: Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

AN ACT
PROMOTING TELEMEDICINE IN THE COUNTRY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Telemedicine Act of 2018".

SECTION 2. The Constitution provides that the State shall establish means to promote quality health services across the country, down to the farthest communities.

SECTION 3. There shall be an affordable and accessible telemedicine services in all the medical centers, hospitals and clinics in the country, which includes the following:

- a. Construction of facilities for the delivery of telemedicine services sites;
- b. Provision of technology equipment and systems such as computers, internet connections, and communication lines;
- c. Provision of healthcare services by duly licensed professionals such as doctors, nurses, primary care health workers and clinical specialists; and
- d. Provision of transportation and other courier services for the delivery of medicines and other services.

SECTION 4. The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the University of the Philippines National Telehealth Center, and other medical centers and clinics, is herein tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. An initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law.

SECTION 6. If any provision hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.