

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7399



Introduced by: Honorable Arcadio H. Gorriceta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Western Visayas Sanitarium, one of the retained-hospital of the Department of Health in Santa Barbara, Iloilo is way forward to a century of existence. It was established in 1927 for treatment of leprosy patients in the time when persons affected with the disease were kept and isolated to the general public.

With the introduction of the Multi-Drug-Therapy regimen for leprosy in 1995, the prevalence rate of leprosy has consistently been less than one per 10,000 people. In the past 20 years, the number of new cases continued to dwindle down which necessitated the Department of Health to reassess the functions of its DOH Sanitaria. As a result, the Department issued Administrative Order 2005-0013 in 2005 that expanded the role of its sanitaria to provide general health care services including Western Visayas Sanitarium.

The dual role of providing leprosy custodial care and general health care take a toll on limited resources of Western Visayas Sanitarium as to finance, facilities and manpower. Presently, the hospital is licensed as a Level 1 Hospital with authorized bed capacity of 300 and with implementing beds of 200. It maintains 68 custodial leprosy cases and caters to an average of 130-170 admitted patients for general health care services and an average of 200 out-patient daily consultations under the following services: Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Surgery and Family Medicine.

The Western Visayas Sanitarium currently functions as a tertiary healthcare facility given the increasing trend from 2013 to present in out-patient consultations, admissions, surgeries, deliveries, laboratory and radiology services reflected in the succeeding table:

Services Offered	2013	2014	2015	2016	As of the 3 rd Quarter of 2017
OPD Consultations	24,459	25,525	32,354	38,259	33,252
Admissions	3,862	4,378	6,253	9,104	6,096
Surgeries	423	462	701	2, 218	1, 560

Deliveries	460	632	953	1,107	893
Laboratory Services	57,814	61,373	79,704	96,401	87,968
Radiology Services	4,918	6,393	8,817	11,762	12,469

This bill mandates the expansion of Western Visayas Sanitarium into a sanitarium and general hospital to provide efficient general hospital services and develop specialized services while upholding its original mandate for leprosy prevention, treatment, control, and rehabilitation. This would improve the availability of professional healthcare for marginal and poor patients in the region.

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


ARCADIO H. GORRICETA

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**AN ACT EXPANDING THE MANDATE OF THE WESTERN VISAYAS
SANITARIUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA BARABARA, ILOILO INTO A
SANITARIUM AND GENERAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

*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 “Western Visayas Sanitarium Expansion and Development Act”.

SEC. 2. *Sanitarium Expansion.* Western Visayas Sanitarium located in Brgy. Inangayan, Santa Barbara, Iloilo is hereby expanded to a sanitarium and general hospital to be known as Western Visayas Sanitarium and General Hospital.

SEC. 3. *Continued Service and Assistance to Leprosy Patients.* The primary mandate of Western Visayas Sanitarium for leprosy treatment, management and prevention shall continue to the interest of the patients being treated under the Leprosy Control Program.

SEC. 4. *Expansion Committee.* There shall be an Expansion Committee, hereinafter referred to as a Committee, which shall be constituted by the Department of Health (DOH) in coordination with the Regional Health Office VI, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Western Visayas Sanitarium and General Hospital Chief which shall promulgate the following:

- a) *Expansion Plan.* The Committee shall come up with an expansion and development scheme which shall among others include the infrastructure, equipment and land improvement.
- b) *Organizational and Staffing Pattern.* The organizational structure and staffing pattern of Sulu Sanitarium and General Hospital shall be determined by the Committee subject to evaluation by the Health Human Resource Development Bureau and Health Facility Development Bureau of the Department of Health, and the Department of Budget and Management.

SEC. 5. *Upgrading of Health Service Facilities.* The Department of Health shall determine the service capability of Western Visayas Sanitarium and General Hospital and allow the development and upgrading of general hospital services or specialized services.

SEC. 6. *Transfer of Assets and Liabilities.* Facilities, land and buildings, and equipment acquired by the Western Visayas Sanitarium including its documents, medical and non-medical records, liabilities and obligations are hereby transferred to the Western Visayas Sanitarium and General Hospital.

SEC. 7. *Security of Tenure.* The position, seniority and security and other rights of tenure of medical and non-medical personnel of the Western Visayas Sanitarium shall continue to be honored under the Western Visayas Sanitarium and General Hospital.

SEC. 8. *Implementation.* Implementation of this Act shall not be more than three 3 years from the approval.

SEC 9. *Appropriations.* The Department of Health shall immediately include in its programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Supplementary Funding.* The Department of Health, in coordination with Regional Office VI and local government units, shall also prepare mechanisms for sourcing supplementary funds to augment its operations.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or 'G' followed by a vertical stroke.