

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10495



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is responsible for upholding the sovereignty of the country, supporting its Constitution, and defending its territory against all enemies. As such, the assignments of our troops vary. Their duties and responsibilities take them to different parts of the country where they are only tied to their respective nearest brigade or command. With these various assignments and often far locations, tending to the wounded or ill becomes difficult. And for those not so fortunate, a high price is paid.

To ensure the preservation of life and the avoidance of unfortunate but otherwise preventable situations, there is a need for the establishment of a hospital-grade clinic in all brigade or command posts of the AFP. This way, our troops need not go far in order to receive life-saving-time-is-of-the-essence medical care that would be otherwise available only in a hospital far from their location.

The budget necessary to make this possible is small compared to the heroism and dedication of our men in uniform. This will surely boost their morale and is definitely a good gesture of the government's faith and gratitude for their sacrifices.

Thus, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI
Representative
Third District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT
CREATING A HOSPITAL-GRADE CLINIC IN EVERY BRIGADE OR COMMAND OF
THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the health and ensure access of its armed forces to critical medical care. The State acknowledges the sacrifices of its Armed Forces and hereby provides them the immediate access to vital medical care.

Sec. 2. Establishment of Hospital-Grade Clinics. - There is hereby established a hospital-grade clinic in all brigade or command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines which will cater to the medical and health needs of its personnel on assignment. The services that will be performed to the personnel of the Armed Forces on these hospital-grade clinics shall be free on account of the assignment of the personnel.

Sec. 3. Role of the Department of Health. - The Department of Health (DOH) shall provide the appropriate guidance that the specifications needed for the establishment of a hospital-grade clinic is met.

Sec. 4. Appropriations. - There is hereby allocated an initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) for the establishment of the hospital-grade clinics in every brigade or command subject of this Act. The amount shall be chargeable against the national budget for the succeeding fiscal year after the effectivity of this Act. However, the succeeding amounts needed to accomplish the goal of this Act shall be charged in the following General Appropriations Acts.

Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DOH and the AFP shall issue the plans, rules and regulations needed to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval.

Sec. 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,