

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1239



Introduced by **REP. JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Art. II, Sec. 15 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to “protect and promote the right to health of the people.” Moreover, Art. XII, Sec. 11 of the same calls on the State to “adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other services available to all the people at affordable cost.”

Accordingly, the State should invest in establishing more healthcare facilities to ensure universal access to quality medical services. The need to build more hospitals and health centers has become more urgent amidst the emergence (and resurgence) of infectious diseases, and increasing prevalence of lifestyle diseases.

This bill thus seeks to establish a local government hospital in the City of Victorias, in the Province of Negros Occidental, to enhance the capacity of the city government to address the healthcare needs of its growing population.

In the 2021 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index, Victorias, a fourth class component city, has ranked 110th out of 113 component cities in health infrastructure. The nearest government hospital, the Teresita L. Jalandoni Provincial Hospital, which serves all cities and municipalities in Negros Occidental (including Bacolod City) or a total of 3.2 million people, is 18.243 kilometers away, and with its 300-bed capacity, may not be able to accommodate patients from Victorias City. This clearly indicates that the city needs all the help to improve its local health system.

Considering the current state of local health infrastructure, the establishment of the Victorias City General Hospital is crucial in providing the people of Victorias wider access to affordable and quality healthcare – and saving lives from medical emergencies.

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


JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS,
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE VICTORIAS
CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a tertiary general hospital in the City of Victorias, Province of Negros Occidental to be known as the Victorias City General Hospital (VCGH).

SEC. 2. The City Government of Victorias shall provide funding for the establishment, operation and maintenance of the VCGH.

SEC. 3. The Chief of the Hospital of the VCGH shall submit to the Department of Health (DOH) a development plan to reflect the development goals of the hospital. The medical personnel, capital outlays and budgetary needs for the operation of the VCGH shall be based on the hospital development plan.

SEC. 4. The amount of Five hundred million pesos (P500,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the implementation of this Act which shall be included and funded under the 2023 General Appropriations Act under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the DOH.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of Health, in consultation and coordination with local government officials concerned, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulation for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,