

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1586



Introduced by

HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL
NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND PROVIDING
FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Most of the people afflicted with kidney diseases remain untreated. One of the causes of which is the lack of access to proper treatment and care and its high cost.

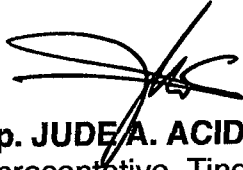
In the Philippines alone, studies have shown that one Filipino dies from kidney failure every hour. Kidney diseases, especially End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) are one of the top leading causes of death among Filipinos.

The proposed legislation which seeks to establish dialysis clinics in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals and to provide free dialysis treatments, aims to address this issue. This with help improve access to treatment and help ease the burden of patients battling with kidney diseases.

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



Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. For this purpose, the State shall ensure that patients suffering from End Stage Renal Disease are accorded timely and appropriate treatment with the provision of accessible dialysis clinics and free dialysis treatments.

Section 2. *Establishment of Dialysis Clinics in all National, Regional and Provincial Hospitals.* – There shall be established dialysis clinics in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals in the country. The dialysis clinics shall be equipped with sufficient machines, equipment, paraphernalia, and supplies, and staffed with the appropriate number of medical and other personnel, including a dietician who shall recommend the appropriate diet to each patient depending on the condition of the patient.

The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with local government units and other relevant government agencies, shall lead the establishment of these clinics.

Section 3. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.* - The DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, shall ensure that indigent patients are accorded free dialysis treatments in national, regional, or provincial hospitals. For this purpose, "*indigent patient*" refers to a patient who has no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of his family, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Section 4. *Authority to Receive Donations and Exemption from Donor's Taxes, Customs and Tariff Duties.* - The DOH shall have the authority to receive donations, gifts, and bequests to augment the funding for the establishment of the dialysis clinics created in accordance with this Act. All donations, contributions, or endowments which may be made by persons or entities to the dialysis clinics in national, regional, and provincial hospitals and the importation of medical equipment and machineries, spare parts and other medical equipment used solely and exclusively by the dialysis clinics shall be exempt from income or donor's taxes, any other direct or indirect taxes, wharfage fees and other charges and restrictions.

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the implementation of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 6. *Appropriations.* – An initial amount of One Billion Pesos (Php 1,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the necessary fund for the proper implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,