

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1786



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a 1952 polio epidemic in Denmark, groups of medical students were tasked with manually ventilating patients¹. During the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918, medical students at the University of Pennsylvania cared for patients in the capacity of physicians.² In the current pandemic, medical schools in the United States, Italy, and the United Kingdom are graduating medical students early on the condition that they serve as frontline clinicians.³ These facts prove how medical students portray a very crucial role during trying times just like the pandemic. By creating a close connection between the academe and hospitals, we closely put into practice what our medical students learn inside the four walls of their classrooms.

Therefore, to strengthen the country's capability to cater to the health services needs of Filipinos, this bill seeks to create new hospitals which will be attached to state colleges and universities (SUCs) offering medical degree programs. In addition, these hospitals to be created within the SUCs will enable its medical students to have the proper training ground for them to fully acquire the needed skills, knowledge and experience.

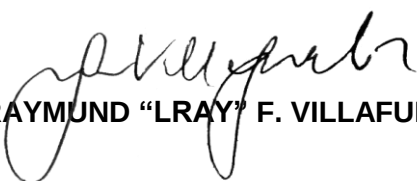
This proposed measure is in line with the objectives of the Universal Health Care Law which seeks to deliver major health system reforms in governance and service delivery in partnership with our young future medical professionals. In addition, the establishment of more hospitals will help prevent the high attrition rate of our very capable healthcare workers as there will be more hospitals to employ them. It is the goal of this measure to help achieve the prescribed ratio of medical professionals to the population as well as increase the ratio of hospital beds to the population.

¹ West JB. The physiological challenges of the 1952 Copenhagen poliomyelitis epidemic and a renaissance in clinical respiratory physiology. *J Appl Physiol* (1985). 2005;99:424-432. [PMID: 16020437]

² Starr I. Influenza in 1918: recollections of the epidemic in Philadelphia. 1976. *Ann Intern Med*. 2006;145:138-40. [PMID: 16801626]

³ Goldberg E. Early graduation could send medical students to virus front lines. The New York Times. 26 March 2020. Accessed at www.nytimes.com/2020/03/26/health/coronavirus-medical-students-graduation.html on 11 July 2020.

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



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.



TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA



MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE



NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

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HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
OFFERING MEDICAL DEGREES NATIONWIDE, AND PROVIDING 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 cited as the “*Healthcare Facility Augmentation Act*”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — The 1987 Constitution guarantees the right to health of the people and mandates the State to make health services available to all the people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State shall empower the state colleges and universities (SUCs) in the country to contribute in providing health care services to the community as well as enabling its medical students to have the appropriate training ground.

SEC. 3. Establishment of Hospitals in State Colleges and Universities. — There is hereby established a hospital, with a bed capacity of not less than 50 beds, in every state university and college (SUC) offering a medical degree. The Department of Health (DOH), through its nearest regional hospital, and in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the concerned SUCs, shall provide the necessary technical assistance on the construction of said hospitals to ensure conformity with the standards set by the department.

The management and operations of the hospital including the hiring of required medical personnel shall be with the concerned SUCs: *Provided*, That to ensure proper coordination with existing policies and programs of the DOH, the concerned SUCs shall elect or appoint the DOH Regional Director in the governing boards of the hospital:

Provided further, That any income derived from the operation of the hospital shall be retained by the concerned SUCs to answer for expenses and upgrading cost of their hospitals: *Provided finally*, That hospitals established under this Act as well as those already existing in SUCs shall remain operational during public health emergencies including, but not limited to, outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics.

SEC. 4. Construction and Site of the Hospital — After a period of planning not exceeding one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Act, the hospital and the necessary equipment for its operations shall be established and put in place within the grounds of the concerned SUC: *Provided*, That the construction of the hospital shall be completed within five (5) years after the period of planning as stated under this Section.

SEC. 5. Training for Medical Student — Hospitals established under this Act as well as those already existing in SUCs shall serve as the training ground for medical students in the concerned SUCs: *Provided*, That graduates of the medical degree programs in the concerned SUCs who availed of a government scholarship program shall be required to render their return service in the hospital of the SUC which they graduated from.

SEC. 6. Reportorial Requirement. — The concerned SUCs shall submit through CHED, on an annual basis, a detailed report on the progress of the implementation of this Act to the Senate Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and Health and Demography, and the House Committees on Higher and Technical Education and Health.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall automatically be included in the annual appropriations of the SUCs for the next five years upon the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. —All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly

SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause. —This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of the general circulation.

Approved,