

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3069



Introduced by Rep. Ray Florence T. Reyes

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Poverty is a major force that hinders access to medicine and healthcare. Despite the passage of the Universal Health Care Law, many Filipinos are not able to avail of medical intervention, especially indigent patients and those whose residence and livelihood are situated far from town centers.

While development projects are vital in ensuring the sustained growth of the local and domestic economy, the projected benefits and potential gains from these endeavors are largely dependent on the productivity and health of its ultimate intended beneficiaries. Ensuring ready access to health services and resources will ensure poverty reduction. The enactment of this measure will empower our countrymen over their health and widen the breadth of their opportunity to partake in, and benefit from, economic development.

This measure seeks to guarantee that funds are always available to local government units, whether it be for the provision of medicines to indigent patients, and secure appropriate local response to unforeseen health emergencies.

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


RAY FLORENCE T. REYES
Representative, AnaKalusugan (Partylist)

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AN ACT REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO EARMARK AT LEAST FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THEIR NATIONAL TAX ALLOTMENT SHARE FOR HEALTH SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 287 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. Section 287 of Republic Act 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 287. Local Development Projects AND HEALTH SERVICES. – Each local government unit shall appropriate in its annual budget no less than twenty percent (20%) **AND FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%)** of its annual [internal revenue] **NATIONAL TAX** allotment for development projects **AND HEALTH SERVICES, RESPECTIVELY.** Copies of the development plans **AND HEALTH PROGRAMS, INCLUDING PROVISION OF FREE MEDICINES TO INDIGENT PATIENTS,** of local government units shall be furnished the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH).**

HEALTH PROGRAMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA SET BY THE DOH PURSUANT TO PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT.

SECTION 2. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Health, (DOH) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall

jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,