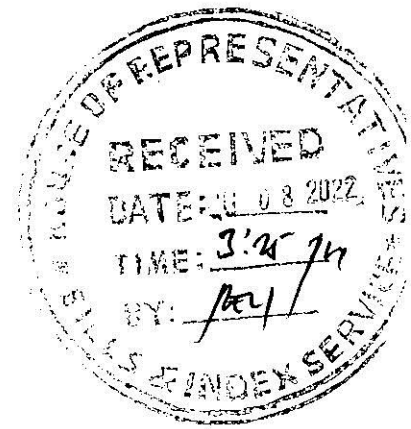




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3323



Introduced by Representative Jefferson F. Khonghun

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING MULTI-SPECIALTY HOSPITALS IN
DIFFERENT REGIONS TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED
CARE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

An ideal healthcare consists of quality, affordability and accessibility. Hence, it is important that we look at the ways in which it can be made accessible for the constituents we serve

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s initiative to strengthen the healthcare system capacity, and to build more specialty hospitals in other parts of the country, was mentioned during his first state of the nation address (SONA). According to him, one of the cornerstones of a strong healthcare system is the provision of competent and efficient medical professionals.

With this mandate, we should exert all efforts to improve the welfare of our doctors, nurses, and other medical frontliners and to build specialty hospitals all over the country. It is imperative that patients seeking medical care need not travel all the way to Metro Manila to seek assistance from multispecialty hospitals, including the Philippine Heart Center, the Lung Center of the Philippines and the National Kidney Transplant Institute. Our people from far-flung provinces will greatly benefit from the establishment of multi-specialty hospitals within their region.

Senate Bill (SB) 93 intended to provide all Filipinos with easier access to specialized medical care, giving priority to those residing in far-flung regions. Under the said bill, four Metro Manila specialty hospitals must establish

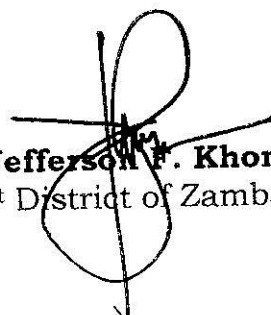
satellite hospitals in identified regions to operate and manage according to their respective charters.

Akin to SB 93, this proposed legislation seeks to establish specialty hospital across the regions of the Philippines for ease of access to patients located therein. This is not to discredit the efficacy of hospitals and clinics, as well as the doctors stationed outside of Metro Manila, but the stigma lingers on; it is a reality that must be overturned by them.

In the meantime, this bill unloads the burden on the part of our already ailing citizens; that instead of having to travel to specialty hospitals in Metro Manila and neighboring cities and municipalities, our citizens may avail of efficient and competent treatments of specialty hospitals that could potentially be established in their regions.

Moreover, this bill seeks to invite back our nurses and medical practitioners who are based abroad. With the projected presence of these regional specialty hospitals, it is positive that all of our citizens will receive the same efficient and competent treatments that they provided to their foreign patients. In the same vein, the country has lost a lot of its health workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is for this reason that this proposed legislation stands as an encouragement to our educational institutions to produce more health care workers and medical practitioners for they may soon be housed under the said regional specialty hospitals.

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


Hon. Jefferson F. Khonghun
1st District of Zambales

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING MULTI-SPECIALTY HOSPITALS IN
DIFFERENT REGIONS TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO
SPECIALIZED CARE AND APPROPRIATING 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 the “Multi-Specialty Hospitals in Different Regions Act of 2022.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Well-enshrined in the 1987 Constitution is the mandate of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. In doing so, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development by providing them specialized health services, which shall be available and accessible to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Multi-Specialty Hospitals in Different Regions.* There shall be established a multi-specialty hospital in every region of the Philippines, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DCH).

The following specialty hospitals are mandated to establish a multi-specialty hospital in every identified region to be managed and operated pursuant to their respective charters:

1) Philippine Heart Center created under Presidential Decree No. 673;

2) National Kidney and Transplant Institute created under Presidential Decree No. 1832;

- 1 3) Lung Center of the Philippines created under Presidential Decree
2 No. 16 1823; and
3 4) Philippine Children's Medical Center created under Presidential
4 Decree No. 1631.

5 Provided, That these specialty hospitals must formulate prioritization
6 plans for the purpose of implementing this Act, giving priority to provinces
7 which are geographically isolated from their region's tertiary care hospital, or
8 those without a regional tertiary care hospital.

9
10 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as restricting the right of the
11 Department of Health (DOH) to establish specialty hospitals or specialized
12 units in DOH hospitals in different regions.

13
14 **SECTION 4. *Period of Implementation.*** -The establishment of at least
15 one (1) multi-specialty hospital in identified regions shall be completed over a
16 period of five (5) years: Provided, That payments for amortization of
17 outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may
18 extend beyond this period.

19
20 **SECTION 5. *Report to Congress.*** -Within one hundred twenty (120) days
21 from the effectivity of this Act, the executive directors of the specialty hospitals
22 shall present a report to Congress identifying the regions where the multi-
23 specialty hospitals will be constructed and detailing the construction plan of
24 said multi- specialty hospitals, together with the hospital development plan.

25
26 For this purpose, the Congress shall establish a Joint Congressional
27 Oversight Committee composed of five (5) members of each house to be
28 appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively, to
29 determine whether such acts, orders, rules and regulations are within the
30 restrictions provided herein.

31
32 **SECTION 6. *Sunset Review.*** -As the need arises or within five (5) years

1 after its effectivity, the Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct a
2 systematic evaluation of the accomplishments and impact of this Act for
3 purposes of determining remedial legislation.

4
5 **SECTION 7. Appropriations.** -The amount necessary for the
6 implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the current
7 year's budget of the specialty hospitals enumerated in Section 3 of this Act.
8 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation
9 of this Act shall be incorporated in the annual General Appropriations Act.

10
11 **SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90)
12 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination
13 with the specialty hospitals enumerated in Section 3 hereof, shall promulgate
14 the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

15
16 **SECTION 9. Separability Clause.** - Should any part of this Act be
17 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof that are not
18 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

19
20 **SECTION 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
21 proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof which
22 are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended
23 or modified accordingly.

24
25 **SECTION 11. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
26 following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in
27 newspaper of general circulation.

28
29 Approved,