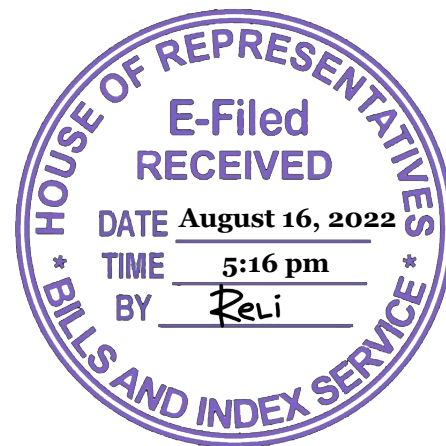


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
_____ Regular Session

House Bill No. **3712**



Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Journal of Global Health, the world faced the COVID-19 pandemic with a 5.9 million shortage of nurses. Asia has the lowest density of nurses in the world even though it is the largest supplier of nurses to other regions. The Philippines alone supplied 240,000 nurses to other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, making it the largest supplier of nurses to OECD countries. But juxtaposed to it is the reality that the country has been facing a severe shortage of nurses in government and private hospitals since the COVID-19 pandemic started. And now, as the economy strives to recover and open amidst the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and other health crises, this shortage is emphasized once more. According to the Department of Health, there are 172,589 nurses working in public and private hospitals here in the Philippines. However, that is just 19% of the total registered nurses we produce, which means that 35% of registered nurses opt to look for opportunities outside the country. Low compensation and benefits and overwork, especially amidst the recent health crisis, have resulted to worrisome understaffing in our hospitals.

The Department of Health recommends that the nurse-to-patient ratio not exceed 1:12, but the current reality does not reflect that, especially as we face the ongoing health crises. Nurses make up almost half of the healthcare professionals in the country. Still, as of October 31, 2021, there were 8.03 nurses per 10,000 population in the Philippines. This shortage is further compounded by the lack of levels in the nursing profession allowed to work in the country. In the United States and other Western nations as well as other Asian countries, there are four (4) levels of the nursing profession:

1. Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), a four-month course
2. Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), a 12-month program
3. Associate Degree in Nursing (AND), a 20-24-month course, and;
4. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a 5-year course

However, according to the Professional Regulation Commission, only the holders of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from a college or university that complies with the standards of nursing education duly recognized by the proper government agency can practice nursing in the Philippines.

Therefore, this means that there are almost no opportunities for those who wish to enter the profession but are not graduates of BS Nursing, and registered nurses feel the brunt of all responsibilities they could otherwise share with other nursing

practitioners. This contributes to the faster burnout, overwork, and resignation of our frontlines.

In line with this, this bill proposes readopting the Associate Degree in Nursing (AND), which has been previously offered in the country until the mid-80s as a three-year program, that provided previous graduates with numerous opportunities here and abroad. This bill also seeks to professionalize the ranks of Nursing Aides to be certified as Nursing Assistants competently trained and qualified as nursing support staff. Lastly, this bill looks to provide scholarships to ten thousand (10,000) deserving and impoverished students nationwide to ensure the success of both the AND and CNA programs.

The immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought in consideration of the acute shortage and the plight of the presently overburdened nurses.



GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR
Third District, Camarines Sur

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **3712**

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AN ACT
READOPTING ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING, PROFESSIONALIZING
NURSING ASSISTANT, PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS THERETO AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title- This Act shall be known as the “**Omnibus Nursing Reconciliation Act of 2022**”

Sec.2. Declaration of Policies. While recognizing the critical supply of nurses, the state cannot totally compel them to stay in the country and prevent them from looking for greener pastures. Their sizable remittances also contribute greatly to the economic vibrancy of the country.

Pursuant to this, it is the policy of the State to maintain a strong, reliable and adequate health care services at all times especially during emergencies and pandemics that presently confront us.

Sec. 3. Department of Health. The Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for identifying the Regions with the most depressing needs of nursing services. The figured number of nurses per Region would be the basis in the allocation and assignment of scholars for both Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN).

Sec. 4. Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing under Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) will extend similar regulatory standards in the practice of nursing profession to graduates of ADN upon passing the same Nursing Board Examination given to BSN.

Sec. 5. Technical Education and Skills Development. Technical Education and Skills Development (TESDA), in consultation with the Board of Nursing will formulate a CNA curriculum and national certifying exam consistent with and similar to other countries, and create a joint membership Body in the regulatory issuance of Certification for Nursing Assistants.

Sec. 6. Accredited Nursing Schools. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall set the standard and be in-charge of accrediting schools, which offer Associate Degree in Nursing.

Sec. 7. Ladderized Continuing Education. The Board of Nursing and TESDA shall formulate curriculums for both CNA and ADN that are geared toward credited ladderized subjects eligible as continuing education program in acquiring BSN Degree.

Sec. 8. Appropriation. The Department of Health shall immediately incorporate in their next Department's Program the implementation of this Act. Funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

Sec. 9. Separability Clause - If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other part of this Act.

Sec. 10. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum orders, and other administrative issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

Sec. 11. Effectivity- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,