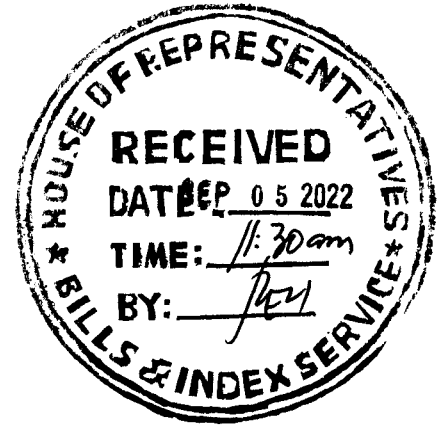


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4403**



Introduced by **HON. MARIA FE R. ABUNDA**
Representative, Lone District, Eastern Samar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The first half of the year 2020 saw immediately how the Covid-19 pandemic has greatly affected the country and the lives of many Filipinos. It has shown the entire country that one of the most important sectors of our society is the health sector. With the pandemic came the realization that there is a time-restricted need to better address patients' needs, the efficiency of our health systems, the quality and modernization of our hospitals especially those located in the provinces.

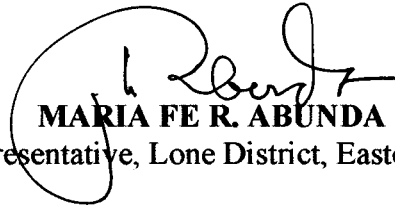
It is enshrined under Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution that "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers." It provides that the government must be able to further improve health services and prioritize those who need it the most. More importantly this should apply for provinces and its hospitals that do not have the necessary medical equipment and supplies, medicines, doctors and nurses to cater to the needs of its citizens.

In light of the growing health concerns that have affected our country and the health concerns of Filipinos based in far-flung provinces such as Eastern Samar, it is imperative that the Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital be upgraded into a Tertiary Level III Regional Hospital. The province of Eastern Samar is home to roughly 467,160 *Estehanons* whose medical needs have to be met. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the lack of medical equipment and supplies of the provincial hospital was exposed. There is not a single ventilator nor is there a dialysis machine that is available in the provincial hospital or any other hospital within the province of Eastern Samar. Many of the residents of Eastern Samar would have to travel at least 4 hours to Tacloban, Leyte to receive the appropriate and necessary healthcare.

It is of utmost importance that the poorly maintained facilities of the hospital be upgraded to be able to prepare the province of Eastern Samar with the necessary tools in order to overcome future health crises that may arise.

This bill seeks to increase the bed capacity to three hundred (300) beds and to upgrade hospital facilities, equipment and to augment the number of personnel in the hospital to be able to cater to the needs of the hundreds of thousands of *Estehanons*. This will tremendously improve the delivery of the proper health care services to the people of Eastern Samar.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Fe R. Abunda', is written over a circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

MARIA FE R. ABUNDA
Representative, Lone District, Eastern Samar

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4403

Introduced by **HON. MARIA FE R. ABUNDA**
Representative, Lone District, Eastern Samar

AN ACT CONVERTING THE EASTERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN BORONGAN, EASTERN SAMAR INTO THE EASTERN SAMAR MEDICAL CENTER, IN THE CITY OF BORONGAN, PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR, UPGRADING AND MODERNIZING ITS FACILITIES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. - In line with the standing policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. The State shall provide accessible and affordable tertiary health services to all its citizens.

Section 2. Objective. - The general objective is to provide the province of Eastern Samar with necessary medical equipment, facilities, supplies and funding in order to cater to the needs of the public.

The specific objectives are:

- (a) To upgrade the Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital into a Tertiary Hospital - Level III;
- (b) To provide affordable tertiary health care which is easily accessible for the poor and less fortunate Filipinos of Eastern Samar;
- (c) To provide the necessary medical equipment such as, but not limited to, ventilators, dialysis machines, medicines, x-rays;
- (d) To provide teaching, training and research facilities for students in nursing and medicine and other health professions in the province of Eastern Samar.

Section 3. Conversion, Upgrading and Modernization. - The Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital in the City of Borongan, Easter Samar is hereby converted into a Tertiary Hospital - Level III to be known as the Eastern Samar Medical Center, increasing its bed capacity to three hundred (300). The Eastern Samar Medical Center shall upgrade and modernize its equipment and facilities

to ensure that it will be able to cater to the needs of Filipinos in the province of Eastern Samar. It shall be under the full administrative and technical supervision, control and management of the Department of Health.

Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act. Upon consultation with the Eastern Samar Medical Center, the Secretary of Health, in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and Management, Commissioner of the Civil Service Commission, shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created pursuant to this Act. Provided that the plantilla employees of the Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital which include physicians, nurses and other support personnel shall also be increased commensurate to the increase in its bed capacity.

Section 5. Appropriations. - The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's programs the funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,