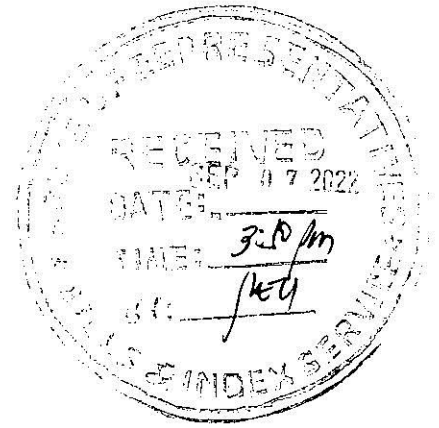




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4547



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When the colonizers from Spain ceded the Philippines in favor of the United States of America, upon living in the Philippines, the Americans observed that modern medicine was not prevalent in the Philippines. Hence, in September 1, 1910, the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) was established¹.

Since then, the Philippine General Hospital has become a sanctuary to the Filipino people. Numerous Filipinos, regardless of what walk of life they belong to, walk in and out behind the doors of PGH to seek medical advice, assistance, and services.

PGH is considered as the largest government hospital in the country. It houses 1,100 beds and 400 private beds but annually it caters to more than 600,000 patients every year. As time passes and with it comes the growth of the population of the citizens of the Philippines. There now arises a problem with regard to the proportionality of the availability of services, machineries and even bed space in PGH.

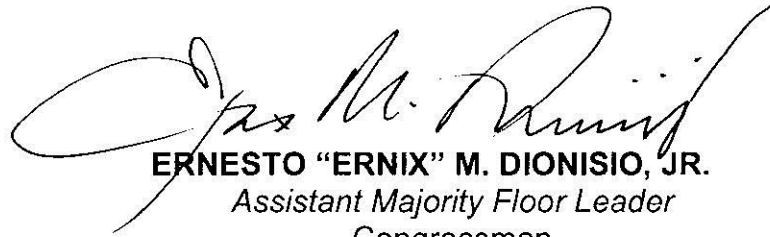
In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic started, the issues relating to our health system were highlighted. Among them, is the scarcity of available hospitals including its machinery, workforce and as well as hospital rooms and beds.

The Constitution provides that, the state shall adopt an approach which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost².

¹ The College History. Available at <https://cm.upm.edu.ph/p/history/#:~:text=in%201910.,for%20students%20of%20the%20college> (last accessed September 6, 2022).

² Section 11, Article XIII, 1987 Constitution.

Given the situation and the rising demand for more hospital facilities, the immediate approval of this bill is necessary.



ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.
Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Congressman
First Congressional District of Manila



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House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **4547**

Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT

INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL FROM ONE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED BEDS (1,500) TO TWO THOUSAND AND TWO HUNDRED BEDS (2,200) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Bed Capacity Increase. – The authorized bed capacity of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) is hereby increased from one thousand and five hundred (1,500) to two thousand and two hundred (2,200).

SECTION. 2. Upgrading of Facilities. – The existing hospital facilities of the PGH, shall be upgraded and its quantity further increased. Moreover, the number of its medical personnel including staff, nurses and doctors shall be increased.

SECTION. 3. Scope. – The increase in the bed capacity of the PGH from one thousand and five hundred beds (1,500) to two thousand and two hundred (2,200) beds shall be implemented within the period of six (6) months to one (1) year from the approval of this Act.

SECTION. 4. Appropriations. – The University of the Philippines, through its approved annual budget, shall initially provide the necessary funding to support the increase in bed capacity of the PGH. The entire budgetary requirements of PGH for its operation and the upgrading of its facilities and services shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) the following year of its enactment

SECTION. 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.