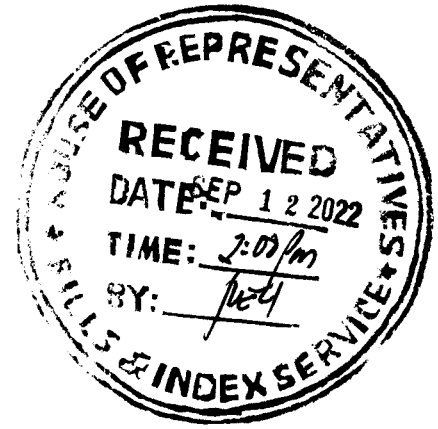


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4667



Introduced by: **REP. FERJENEL G. BIRON, M.D.**

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE DON VALERIO PALMARES SR. MEMORIAL
DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE COMPONENT CITY OF PASSI, PROVINCE OF
ILOILO, INTO A LEVEL-2 HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

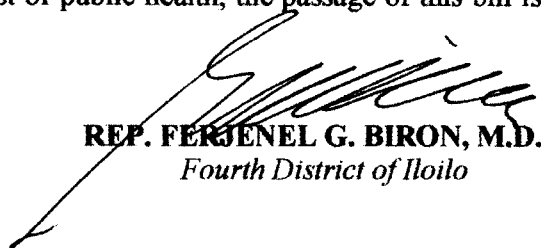
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, formerly Passi District Hospital, is a Level 1 hospital operating only at a twenty-five (25) bed capacity since it began its operations in 1973. Sometime in 1992, Republic Act No. 7263 was passed upgrading the hospital to a capacity of fifty (50) beds, however, due to the hospital's devolution to the Provincial Government of Iloilo in 1993, such increase in bed capacity was never executed.

At present, Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, caters patients not only from Passi City but also from the neighboring Municipality of San Enrique, and additionally from the Municipalities of Dueñas, San Rafael, a part of Calinog and even Dumarao, Capiz. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the incapacity of our Level-1 hospitals to accommodate the sick with the quality, immediacy, and efficiency of healthcare that is the right of every Filipino. This necessitates the expansion and upgrade of the hospital in anticipation of the higher demand of clientele in the District.

Notably, the one-hectare land on which the hospital is situated can be further maximized with the construction of more infrastructure such as a perimeter fence, warehouse, expansion or creation of additional wards, among others, and additional facilities and equipment for the provision of more accessible, efficient, and quality hospital services. All these need sufficient funding, which at present the hospital cannot acquire adequately.

For these reasons, this Representation seeks to nationalize the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, upgrade it to Level 2, increase its bed capacity from twenty-five (25) to two hundred (200) beds, and finance the upgrade of its health care services, equipment, and facilities, as well as fund its workforce through its inclusion in the annual general Appropriations Act. In the noble interest of public health, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. FERJENEL G. BIRON, M.D.
Fourth District of Iloilo

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ILOILO, INTO A LEVEL-2 HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital in the Component City of Passi, Province of Iloilo, is hereby converted into a Level-2 hospital, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 2. The authorized bed capacity of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital shall be increased from twenty-five (25) beds to two hundred (200) beds. Any future increase in bed capacity shall be consistent with the hospital development plan that shall be prepared by the Chief of Hospital of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital and submitted to the DOH.

SEC. 3. The existing professional health care services, equipment, and facilities of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital shall also be upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the increase in bed capacity as provided for in Section 2 hereof.

SEC. 4. The existing workforce of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, which includes doctors, nurses and support personnel, shall be increased correspondingly.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the DOH shall, after consultation with the Chief of Hospital of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, and in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, and the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, determine the additional new positions to be created and filled up.

SEC. 6. The Secretary of the DOH shall immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual general Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, and other presidential issuances which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,