



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4812

Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago



EXPLANATORY NOTE

This commendable bill had been filed in the past Congress and the present proponent is acknowledging the wisdom and hard work of his predecessors.

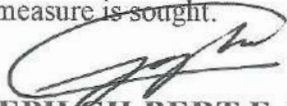
The kidney plays an important role in an individual's body because it cleans waste products and toxins out of the blood in order to keep the individual healthy. When it starts to lose its ability to function properly, the individual has a kidney disease. Every hour one Filipino develops chronic renal failure according to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute and kidney disease is one of the leading cause of death in the Philippines which is alarming.

The treatment options for end stage renal disease is either kidney transplant or dialysis. The latter is the option chosen by majority of Filipinos because the cost for kidney transplant is expensive. However, indigent patients do not find the cost of dialysis affordable, hence they resort to going to government hospitals which offer free dialysis and government entities which provide financial or medical assistance for the said treatment.

There are many dialysis patients but there is a limited number of dialysis centers in the country, hence the patients from far barangays have to travel to reach the nearest government hospitals which offer dialysis treatment with limited number of free sessions. Indigent patients are in dire need of help in order to defray the cost of their treatment.

This bill aims to require the establishment of Dialysis Clinics in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals and provide free dialysis treatment to indigent patients. It is the duty of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people thereby the establishments of the said Dialysis Clinics shall be the government's response to the urgent need of Filipino people suffering from kidney disease.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this measure is sought.


JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO



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AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND PROVIDING FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Dialysis Center Act”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure that hospital facilities are available, affordable, and accessible to the people.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms as used in this Act shall mean the following:

- a. “Secretary” shall refer to the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- b. “National Government Hospital” shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the National Government or by any department, division, board, or other agency thereof;
- c. “Regional Government Hospital” shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the Regional Government or by any department, division, board, or other agency thereof;
- d. “Indigent Patient” shall refer to a patient whose combined annual family income does not exceed Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00).

SECTION 4. *Establishment, Operation, and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward or Unit.* – Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate, and maintain a dialysis ward in their hospital.

The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with the complete dialysis machine, equipment, and supplies.

SECTION 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patient.* – Dialysis treatment in all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients as defined in Section 3(d) hereof.

SECTION 6. *Penalty.* – Any hospital chief, administrator, or officer-in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

SECTION 7. *Implementing Agencies.* – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary shall provide the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The IRR shall be published in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospitals' annual appropriations.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of the Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of law or regulations inconsistent herewith is hereby repealed, revoked, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,