

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

19th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5293



Introduced by **HONORABLE PETER B. MIGUEL**

AN ACT UPGRADING THE SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL (SGH) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO TO A REGIONAL AND MEDICAL CENTER AND INCREASING ITS AUTHORIZED BED CAPACITY TO TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (250) AND TO BE KNOWN AS SOCCSKSARGEN REGIONAL AND MEDICAL CENTER (SRMC) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to change the name of SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital, a Department of Health retained hospital facility located at Crossing Curva, Barangay Dajay, Surallah, South Cotabato to SOCCSKSARGEN REGIONAL AND MEDICAL CENTER (SRMC) and increase its authorized bed capacity to Two Hundred Fifty (250) and upgrade its service facilities and professional health care for other related purpose. This bill also seeks to make SMC as a Regional Hospital which will cater to patients from all around Region 12. It is noteworthy that regional hospital serving Region 12, the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center, is now under the jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The current location of the proposed SRMC is beneficial for the constituents of the provinces of South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat. The same also applies for the cities of General Santos, Kidapawan, Koronadal and Tacurong.

Under the current government regulations, a government owned hospital can only increase its bed capacity through an act of Congress. Hence, to ensure that government hospital continue to provide quality health care services, this bill seeks to increase the authorized bed capacity of the hospital to Two Hundred Fifty (250).

BACKGROUND OF SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL

In 2012, the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital (SGH), formerly the Upper Valley Community Hospital (UVCH), was built through a partnership between the Provincial Government of South Cotabato (PGSC) and San Miguel Corporation (SMC). It is located at Crossing Curva, Baranagay Dajay, Surallah, South Cotabato and initially operated with an Authorized Bed Capacity (ABC) of Eighteen (18) as an Infirmary Hospital.

On October 26, 2018, then President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Republic Act No. 11102. "An Act Establishing the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital (SGH) in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato, and Appropriating Hospital Funds Thereof." The Act was proposed in the 17th Congress as House Bill No. 5881 by Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Second District, South Cotabato, and was enacted through the Senate Bill No. 1586 by Joseph Victor G. Ejercito. This confirmed that the hospital shall be established from the existing Upper Valley Community Hospital (UVCH), Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato.

Meanwhile, the SGH sought the technical assistance of the Regulation and Licensing Enforcement Division (RLED) of DOH 12 for its direction to upgrade into a Level 1 Healthcare facility but because of the Covid-19 Pandemic in April 2019, the SGH became the Covid-19 Isolation Facility maintaining the ABC of eighteen (18).

On June 28, 2019, a Memorandum of Agreement was made and entered into by the PGSC Governor, Reynaldo Tamayo, Jr. and then DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III. The two parties formally held to discuss the draft of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act No. 11102.

Subsequently, on September 16, 2019, an Administrative Order No. 2019-0037 was issued by Sec. Duque on the IRR of R.A. No 11102. With this development, the Transition Committee for the planning of the Turn-over was composed through the DOH Regional Personnel Order No. 3380 and series of meetings were held.

On January 2021, the Department of Budget and Management issued the Notice of Organization, Staffing and Compensation Action (NOSCA) with serial no. 150609 for the One Hundred Forty Four (144) plantilla positions and the MOOE appropriation for the operation of the SGH and its upgrading. The selection and hiring process of the said plantilla items was administered by the CHD 12 and their appointments took effect on July 01, 2021.

But in January 2022, the SGH License to Operate was downgraded from Infirmary to Community Isolation Facility (CIU) limiting its operation for Mild Covid Cases. With this status, the turnover of the facility from PGSC to DOH became apparent.

On June 24, 2022, Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo, Jr. turned over SGH to the Medical Center Chief, Dr. Ceril Magbanua-Borrromeo, the management and facility of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital with the Usufruct Agreement signed by the parties. SGH then was issued by RLED the License to Operate as Infirmary Health Care Institution with an Authorized Bed Capacity of Fifty (50).

RATIONALE FOR THE INCREASE IN BED CAPACITY

The SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital (SGH) aims to provide the 4.9 million Filipinos in Region XII of an improved access to its medical services as well as to its modern health facility.

The SGH and the other public hospitals today are confronting challenges mainly because of: (1) deficient infrastructure, (2) deficient manpower, (3) unmanageable patient load, (4) equivocal quality of services, (5) high out of pocket expenditure.

To better serve the upper valley communities of South Cotabato and the entire region, the need to upgrade SGH is because of the following objectives:

1. To provide better access and utilization of quality and comprehensive health and referral services;
2. To decongest the South Cotabato Provincial Hospital;
3. To increase the Recovery Rate of patients;
4. To lower the morbidity and mortality rate in South Cotabato; and
5. To deliver quality health services to the people of South Cotabato and the entire Region XII

The Philippine Health Agenda (PHA) and World Health Organization (WHO) has identified that the ideal hospital bed to population ration is 1:800. With the current situation in South Cotabato, the current hospital bed to population ration is 1:1500, way below the ideal standards.

Increasing the bed capacity of SGH to at least 250 beds will not only close the gap ratio but will also be in compliance with the standard set by the PHA and the WHO in the ideal ratio for bed capacity per population and will also strengthen the delivery of quality health services in this part of the country.

In view of the foregoing, the entire constituents of the Province of Cotabato, especially from the 2nd District, the immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.



PETER B. MIGUEL

Representative, 2nd District, South Cotabato.

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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 SOCCSKSARGEN Expansion and Development Act of 2022”
- Section 2:* The name of SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital (SGH) is hereby changed to SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center (SRMC).
- Section 3:* The SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center (SRMC) shall continue to exist as Department of Health (DOH) retained hospital.
- Section 4:* *Medical Center Services:* The mandate of SOCCSKSARGEN Medical Center (SRMC) is hereby expanded into a medical center geared towards complete and comprehensive healthcare to include adults and elderlies. Hence, the services include Pediatrics (Developmental, Pediatrics-Infectious, Pediatrics-Cardio, Pediatrics-Allergology, Pediatrics-Endocrinology), Obstetrics and Gynecology, Family Medicine, Surgery (General, Orthopedic, Ophthalmology and ENT), Internal Medicine (Cardiology, Pulmonology, Diabetology, Psychiatry, Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Nephrology, Neurology and Infectious Disease) and Dental Medicine.
- Section 5:* *Bed Capacity:* The Authorized Bed Capacity (ABC) of SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center (SRMC) is hereby increased to not less than Two Hundred Fifty (250) beds and as determined by the Department of Health (DOH) and its expanded mandate. It shall continue to improve its services in achieving towards a medical center hospital facility.

- Section 6:* The existing service facilities and professional health care services of the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center (SRMC) are hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the bed capacity increase as provided for in Section 5 hereof. The Department of Health (DOH) shall allow and assist in the development and upgrading of SMC 's healthcare program and specialized services.
- Section 7:* *Plantilla Positions:* The existing workforce shall also be increased correspondingly as proper and commensurate to its approved authorized bed capacity provided in Section 3 of this Act. The DOH, in coordination with Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up upon prior consultation with SMC.
- Section 8:* *Expansion Transition Committee:* There shall be an Expansion Transition Committee which shall be composed of the Department of Health, through its Regional Director, the Medical Chief of SRMC, and the medical and non-medical personnel through their legal or duly designated representatives. The Committee shall be tasked to perform the following:
- A. *Expansion Plan:* The expansion scheme, including the proposed time-table for the same, shall be carried out under an expansion plan drawn by the committee under the supervision of the Central Office of the DOH.
 - B. *Organizational and Staffing Pattern:* The organizational and staffing pattern of SMC shall be followed by the Committee subject to the evaluation of Health Human Resources Development Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).
- Section 9:* *Transfer of Assets and Liabilities:* All personnel, medical and non-medical records, records, assets and properties including facilities, land, buildings and equipment and improvements thereof acquired by SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital (SGH) as well as liabilities and obligations are hereby transferred to SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center (SRMC).
- Section 10:* *Security of Tenure:* The position, seniority and security and other rights of tenure of medical and non-medical personnel of SGH shall continue to be honored and respected under the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center (SRMC).
- Section 11:* *Appropriations:* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into Law and thereafter.

Section 12: Supplementary Funding: The Department of Health, in coordination with its Regional Office and Local Government Units, shall also prepare mechanisms for sourcing supplementary funds to augment the operations of SRMC.

Section 13: Repealing Clause: All laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed amended or repealed accordingly.

Section 14: Effectivity Clause: This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.