



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5563



INTRODUCED BY **TUTOK TO WIN**
PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE SAM "SV" VERZOSA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. While many Filipinos are already benefiting from the Specialty Hospitals situated in Metro Manila, such as the Philippine Heart Center created under Presidential Decree No. 673; National Kidney and Transplant Institute created under Presidential Decree No. 1832; Lung Center of the Philippines created under Presidential Decree No. 1823; and the Philippine Children's Medical Center created under Presidential Decree No. 1631, these specialty hospitals are usually congested and a great number of financially-challenged patients living in far-flung rural areas are hampered in accessing the medical services they urgently need from these specialty hospitals.

Thus, it is clear that there is a need to build more specialty hospitals in the provinces and in highly urbanized cities to provide accessible, available, and affordable specialty care service.

This bill seeks to establish Regional Specialty Centers in select Department of Health-run regional hospitals. It shall ensure that each region has one established specialty center. The specialty care services that will be offered in each center shall be primarily based on the top burden of disease in the region and significant laws and mandates, among others.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SV' followed by a stylized flourish.

SAM "SV" VERZOSA
Representative
Tutok To Win Party-List



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY CENTER IN EVERY REGION AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the **"Regional Specialty Care Act of 2022."**

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them by making health services available, accessible, and affordable for all. To this end, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development by providing them specialized health services which shall be available and accessible to all Filipinos at affordable cost.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Specialty Center in Every Region.* - There shall be established a specialty center in select Department of Health (DOH) hospitals in every region.

Provided, That the DOH, through its existing regional hospitals, and in consultation with the specialty hospitals in the country, shall develop standards for the creation of Regional Specialty Centers to increase the accessibility of specialty

health care services to patients.

SECTION 4. *Regional Specialty Centers Development Plan.* - The DOH, in consultation with the stakeholders, shall formulate a ten (10)-year development plan that will identify and expedite the establishment of Regional Specialty Centers in DOH-regional hospitals. It shall include among others, the following:

1. *Infrastructure*- The necessary infrastructure, basic facilities and equipment needed for the establishment of Regional Specialty Centers; and,
2. *Personnel*- The DOH, in coordination with CSC, shall include the human resources needed to run and manage the Regional Specialty Centers.

SECTION 5. *Tax Exemptions.* - All donations, contributions or endowments which may be made by entities or persons to the Regional Specialty Centers for their benefit shall be exempt from income and gift taxes. The importation of medical equipment to be used by the Regional Specialty Centers shall likewise be exempt from import duties, taxes, and other fees.

SECTION 6. *Report to Congress.* - Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the executive directors of the Regional Specialty Centers shall present a report to Congress detailing the development and operational plan of said Regional Specialty Centers.

SECTION 7. *Sunset Review.* - As the need arises or within five (5) years after its effectivity, the Congress shall conduct a sunset review of this Act. The term 'sunset review' shall mean a systematic evaluation of the accomplishments and impact of this Act for purposes of determining remedial legislation.

For this purpose, the Congress shall establish a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee composed of five (5) members of each House to be appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Health shall include in

the Department's program the establishment and operationalization of Regional Specialty Centers, the funding of which shall be included in the budget of DOH under the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOH, in coordination with the specialty hospitals enumerated in Section 3 hereof, shall promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of national circulation.

Approved,