

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6657



Introduced by Hon. Julianne L. Baronda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is home to some of the best specialty hospitals in the region. With the Philippine Heart Center, the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Children's Medical Center, the National Kidney Transplant Institute, and the Philippine Cancer Center all providing world class service and affordable and quality health care to our people, we are not lagging behind. But what do these specialty hospitals have in common? They are all located in Metro Manila.

The location of these specialty hospitals provides an easy access to Filipinos living in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Unfortunately, however, this is not always the case with our people living in far-flung provinces including Iloilo. In fact, *Ilonggos* have always faced hurdles and additional challenges whenever they seek medical attention from specialty hospitals. It is a sad reality that transportation and accommodation costs are at times, too much of a burden for the *Ilonggo* people, in addition to the medical bills that continue to pile up. Worse, because of the increasing number of Filipinos trying to avail the service of specialty hospitals, even asking for a slot to be accommodated by them or just being scheduled is also an issue.

Thus, it is the dream of this representation to bring these specialty hospitals closer to the people, particularly the *Ilonggos* and the nearby provinces. The creation of specialty hospitals will provide an opportunity for our *kababayans* to avail topnotch service that at present, is only readily available for those near Metro Manila. If we are truly a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, then let us make this a reality so that our countrymen, rich or poor, will have an equal chance to fight for their lives.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Rep. Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda
District Representative

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SATELLITE SPECIALTY HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF
ILOILO TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED MEDICAL CARE INCLUDING
EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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 “*Iloilo City Satellite Specialty Hospital Act*”.

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available and adequate to the people at affordable cost. 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.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following term is defined as follows:

- a. *Satellite Specialty Hospital* refers to a hospital that targets one area of medicine and caters to specific illnesses involving the heart, kidney, lungs, cancer, musculoskeletal system, diseases involving children, and other specialized treatment.

Sec. 4. *Establishment of a Satellite Specialty Hospital in Iloilo City.* – A Specialty Hospital that would serve as a satellite of the following hospitals is hereby established under

the supervision of the Department of Health and shall be located in one center or compound in Iloilo City:

- (a) Philippine Heart Center
- (b) Lung Center of the Philippines
- (c) National Kidney and Transplant Institute
- (d) Philippine Orthopedic Center
- (e) Philippine Cancer Center
- (f) Philippine Children's Medical Center
- (g) Other specialty hospitals.

The Satellite Specialty Hospital shall be divided into Departments depending on the specialized treatment that they cater to. The Satellite Specialty Hospital shall elect its Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), with all the Departments equally represented and entitled to one (1) seat. The Trustees will then elect from among themselves the officers of the Board in accordance with their charter or by-laws. The Departments shall be under the authority of the Board with the former reporting directly to the mother units concerned on matters pertaining to its specialty. The Satellite Specialty Hospital shall have an initial bed capacity of two hundred (200) per Department.

Sec. 5. Purposes and Objectives. – The purposes and objectives of the Satellite Hospital are the following:

- (a) To construct, maintain, and operate a Satellite Specialty Hospital in Iloilo City;
- (b) To provide medical, heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal, and cancer treatment services and care to the general public; to help prevent heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal and cancer afflictions to the people especially the marginalized sectors, without regard to race, creed, color or political belief;
- (c) To encourage and provide proper trainings for physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers, and social workers in dealing with illnesses affecting the heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal and cancer diseases, including the sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;
- (d) To conduct scientific research on existing and emerging diseases of the heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal and cancer diseases and to encourage public awareness and participation on general health and physical fitness;

(e) To support educational programs including scholarship grants and to provide avenues for universities, hospitals and research institutions to conduct studies and advanced trainings;

(f) To encourage the participation of other organizations on the national, provincial, city, municipal and barangay levels and to coordinate their various efforts and activities for the purpose of achieving a more coordinated program on the common problems related to foregoing objectives.

Sec. 6. Medical Director. The Satellite Specialty Hospital under this Act shall be headed by a Medical Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Board.

The Medical Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

(a) Execute the policies, guidelines and programs approved by the Board, and be responsible for the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;

(b) Submit for consideration and approval of the Board proposed measures, policies, guidelines and programs as may be deemed necessary or proper for the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;

(c) Direct and supervise the management, operation and administration of the Satellite Specialty Hospital, and may delegate this power and any or some of his administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the hospital;

(d) Execute on behalf of the Board, the appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal, and suspension of the officers and employees of the hospital;

(e) Represent the Satellite Specialty Hospital, on behalf of the Board, in all dealings with other officers, agencies and instrumentalities of the government, and all other persons or entities, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private;

(f) Recommend to the Board, the appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal, and suspension of the officers and employees of the hospital; and,

(g) Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed by the Board.

Sec. 7. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern. – The Board shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the Satellite Specialty Hospital established under this Act, subject to the evaluation by the Civil Service Commission and of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management.

Sec. 8. *Period of Implementation.* – The establishment of the Satellite Specialty Hospital under this Act shall be completed over a period of five (5) years; *Provided*, That payments for amortization of any outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period.

Sec. 9. *Minimum Standards of Construction.* – Subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations, the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau of the Department of Health shall issue guidelines for the minimum design standards of the Satellite Specialty Hospital: *Provided*, That the application for a permit to construct a specialty hospital shall be accompanied by a hospital plan: *Provided, Further*, That no permit to construct a specialty hospital can be issued without complying with the minimum standards set forth in the guidelines to be issued pursuant to this Section.

Sec. 10. *Procurement.* – Procurement of medical equipment and supplies to be used by the Satellite Specialty Hospital shall be exempt from the provisions on bidding process required under Republic Act No. 9184 or the “Government Procurement Act” and other relevant laws: *Provided*, That the following information and documents related to the procurement shall be published in the Government Procurement Policy Board online portal, the website of the procuring entity concerned, if available, and at any conspicuous place reserved for this purpose within the premises of the procuring entity within seven (7) working days from the date of acceptance of the award:

- (i) Project Name;
- (ii) Approved Budget for the Contract;
- (iii) Contract Period;
- (iv) Name of Winning supplier, distributor, manufacturer, contractor or consultant;
- (v) Amount of contract awarded;
- (vi) Notice of Award;
- (vii) Date of award and acceptance;
- (viii) Contract or purchase order; and,
- (ix) A certification stating that the procuring entity exerted all efforts to secure the most advantageous price to the government based on existing price data of the agency, the DTI or other relevant agencies or preliminary market scanning done by the agency showing prevailing market prices and practice.

Sec. 11. *Tax Exemptions and Privileges.* – All existing tax exemptions and privileges of the Philippine Heart Center, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Children’s Medical Center and the Philippine Cancer Center

shall be applicable to the Satellite Specialty Hospital. The importation of medical equipment to be used by the Satellite Specialty Hospital shall likewise be exempt from import duties, taxes and other fees.

Sec. 12. *Appropriations.* – The amount of Five Billion Pesos (Php 5,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as contribution of the national government for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Satellite Specialty Hospital. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be incorporated in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 13. *Report to Congress.* Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Medical Director of the Satellite Specialty Hospital shall present a report to Congress detailing its construction plan.

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. This Committee shall determine whether such acts, orders, rules and regulations are within the restrictions provided herein.

Sec. 14. *Annual Report.* The Satellite Specialty Hospital shall submit an annual report of its activities, accomplishments, and recommendations to the mother unit concerned, the Department of Health, the President of the Philippines, and the Congress of the Philippines.

Sec. 15. *Periodic Review.* As the need arises or within five (5) years after its effectivity, the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee shall conduct a review of this Act for purposes of determining whether remedial legislation is in order.

Sec. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Health, in coordination with the specialty hospitals enumerated in Section 4 hereof, shall promulgate rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

Sec. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 19. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,