

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7726



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is unrealistic to expect a single hospital to be able to handle all medical concerns of the general public. This truism rings louder for the provinces, where hospitals, clinics, and health professionals are in short supply. In this regard, Metro Manila is lucky as it is home to various special hospitals, including the Philippine Heart Center, the Lung Center of the Philippines, the National Kidney Transplant Institute, Philippine Cancer Center and Children's Medical Center. Other regions, unfortunately, have to make do with the hospitals in their locales and hope that a practitioner thereat practices in the field of medicine that they need. That, or spend an inordinate amount of money to go to and stay in Metro Manila to receive adequate medical services.

However, health is too precious a matter to leave to chance or spending power. People living in the provinces also deserve to have accessible specialty hospitals where they may consult with and receive treatment from doctors who specialize in the field of medicine that they need. Hence, the present measure aims to establish branches of the abovementioned specialty hospitals in every region of the country so that Filipinos everywhere may receive the health care that they need close to their homes. With this, we hope to help realize the promise of adequate health care for everyone, wherever they may be.

It is for the foregoing reasons that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING REGIONAL BRANCHES OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS
SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER, NATIONAL KIDNEY, AND
TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE, LUNG CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES,
PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER, AND PHILIPPINE CANCER
CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

*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 “Regional
Specialty Hospitals Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of
the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill
health consciousness among them. Towards this end, and in accordance
with the Universal Health Care Act, it is also hereby declared the policy of
the State to provide access to affordable and quality healthcare services to

Filipinos and remove barriers to access through the establishment of regional branches of specialty hospitals.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as:

- a) *Specialty hospitals* - hospitals that specialize in a particular disease or condition or in one type of treatment and may be devoted to the treatment of any of the following:
 - a) a particular type of illness or condition requiring a range of treatment;
 - b) patients suffering from diseases of a particular organ or group of organs;
 - c) patients belonging to a particular group such as children, women, elderly and others.

SECTION 4. *Establishment of Regional Specialty Hospitals.* – Regional branches of the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine Children's Medical Center, and Philippine Cancer Center shall be established in the different regions of the country. One (1) of each of the aforementioned specialty hospitals shall be established in Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Southern Mindanao within three (3) years of effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Purposes and Objectives.* - This Act shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a) To construct, establish, operate and maintain regional branches of specialty hospitals for the public welfare;
- b) To establish specialty care units and upgrade the specialty care equipment of existing government tertiary hospitals in the different regions of the country;
- c) To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research on the prevention of heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary diseases and the care and/or treatment of such diseases and related activities, including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;
- d) To stimulate and/or underwrite scientific research on the biological, demographic, social, economic, eugenic, and physiological aspects of heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary disorders and abnormalities and their control; and gather, compile, and publish the findings of such research for public dissemination;
- e) To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, treatment, and control of heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary diseases, to develop public interest in such diseases and arouse consciousness or awareness on general health and physical fitness;

- f) To encourage and/or undertake the advanced training of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers, and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of services for the treatment of heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary diseases and other related activities;
- g) To assist universities, hospitals, and research institutions in their studies of heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary anomalies;
- h) To encourage the formation of other organizations on the national, provincial, city, municipal, or barangay level and to coordinate their various efforts and activities to achieve a more effective programmatic approach to the common problems relative to the objectives herein enumerated; and
- i) To make specialty care treatment of heart, kidney, liver, cancer, and pulmonary diseases more accessible to the general public, especially to indigent patients.

SECTION 6. *Property of the Regional Specialty Hospital.* - The property of the Regional Specialty Hospital shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other types of property, now owned or reserved for, or may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred or conveyed to, the Regional Branches of the PHC, NKTi, Lung Center of the Philippines, PCMC, and Philippine Cancer Center as applicable, by the Philippine Government, its branches and instrumentalities, any foreign government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, alien or domestic, to carry out its purposes and objectives set forth herein.

SECTION 7. *Governing Board.* - The Regional Specialty hospitals established under this Act shall be headed by the Governing Board of their respective mother units: *Provided*, that the medical director, or his/her equivalent, shall be granted a seat during Board meetings whenever matters concerning the Regional Branch under his/management are on the agenda.

SECTION 8. *Tax Exemptions and Privileges.* - All tax exemptions and privileges granted to PHC, NKTi, Lung Center of the Philippines, PCMC, and Philippines Cancer Center shall be granted to their Regional Branches.

SECTION. 9. *Incentives for Medical Specialists and Experts.* - The Regional Branches of Specialty Hospitals shall be allowed to provide transportation, lodging and other necessary subsidies beyond the salaries of medical specialists and experts to encourage their practice and training in the regional branches.

SECTION 10. *Government Subsidy and Contributions.* - The government shall appropriate an amount for the initial implementation of this Act which shall be charged against the current year's appropriation for health expenditure. Thereafter, the funds necessary for this Act's continuous

and effective implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Annual Report.* - Each Regional Specialty Hospital shall submit an annual report to its respective mother unit and the Department of Health. The report shall render an account of its activities, accomplishments, and policy recommendations.

SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH, PhilHealth, in consultation with the Governing Board of the mother units of the Regional Specialty Hospitals and in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall formulate rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and enforcement of this Act.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,