



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **8026**

Introduced by Representative Shernee A. Tan-Tambut

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a district hospital in the Municipality of Simunul in the Province of Tawi-Tawi.

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

Further, Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution also provides that

“The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.”

The Municipality of Simunul is one of the coastal municipalities in the Province of Tawi-Tawi. The population of the Municipality of Simunul is estimated at 34,245 or 7.78 per cent of the total population of the Province of Tawi-Tawi

The vast expanses of mountainous areas in the mainland provinces and the geographically isolated island provinces impose a big challenge in facilitating the health needs of its people.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic ordeal, the inadequacy of the rural health units in the Municipality of Simunul became more evident, and was compounded by the long distance that an emergency patient needs to traverse from the island-town of Simunul to the nearest hospital located in the provincial capital, which can only be reached by boat as its regular mode of transport.

With the continuous growth of the population of the Municipality of Simunul and its neighboring island-towns, there is a need to improve the laborious delivery of the health services, health facilities, medicines, vaccines, essential goods and other social services. To cover all these needs, the establishment of a district hospital in the Municipality of Simunul is crucially imperative.

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



SHERNEE A. TAN-TAMBUT



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
SIMUNUL, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a district hospital in the Municipality of Simunul, Province of Tawi-Tawi, to be known as the “*Simunul District Hospital*,” which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health.

SEC. 2. The Department of Health shall, in consultation with the Province of Tawi-Tawi, prepare a hospital development plan that is aligned with the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan. Any future increase in bed capacity, health care

facilities, service capability, and human resource complement shall be based on the hospital development plan.

SEC. 3. The initial amount necessary for the construction of Simunul District Hospital shall be charged against the current appropriation of the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its construction and operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,