

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



House Bill No. **9763**

Introduced by **Representative Jose Chaves Alvarez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center in the Province of Palawan.

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 consciousness among them.” Furthermore, Section II, Article XIII 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 people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.”

At present, there is an increasing number of Palaweños diagnosed with heart, lung, and kidney illnesses. In fact, the 2021 Philippine Statistics data discloses that acute myocardial infarction, stroke, pneumonia, respiratory tuberculosis, hypertensive heart

disease, intracerebral hemorrhage, diabetes mellitus, and other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are the leading causes of death in Palawan. The current medical facilities of Ospital ng Palawan do not provide for specialized treatment of these illnesses. The major specialty hospitals are all located in Metro Manila, which means that Palaweños are burdened with the additional cost of transportation and accommodation just to be able to avail of the services of these specialty hospitals.

It is thus imperative that a Multi-Specialty Medical Center should be established for those with heart, lung, kidney, and other allied diseases in the Province of Palawan.

The establishment and maintenance of the Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center will give true meaning to the constitutional policy of providing efficient and effective health care system that is responsive to the health needs and problems of the Palaweños.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this legislative measure is earnestly sought.



JOSE CHAVES ALVAREZ
Representative
2nd District, Palawan

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIALTY MEDICAL CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE WESTERN PHILIPPINES MULTI-SPECIALTY MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center Act.”

SEC. 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.

Towards this end, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development by providing specialized health services to the general public through the establishment and institutionalization of multi-specialty healthcare center in Palawan.

SEC. 3. Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center. –

There is hereby established a Multi-Specialty Medical Center in Palawan to be known as the Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center operated and managed by Ospital ng Palawan subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 11959, provided that the following specialties shall be prioritized: cancer care, cardiovascular care, lung care, renal care and kidney transplant, brain and spine care, trauma care, burn care, orthopedic care, physical rehabilitation medicine, infectious disease and tropical medicine, toxicology, mental health, geriatric care, neonatal care, dermatology, eye care, and ear, nose, and throat care.

The DOH shall provide appropriate specialist equipment and prioritize funding for capital outlay investment through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program and other fund sources.

The establishment of additional Specialty Centers in the Province of Palawan in separate premises and operated under the same management of the Ospital ng Palawan, shall not require a separate license.

The DOH in collaboration with the Ospital ng Palawan, the Professional Regulation Commission, the Department of Budget and Management, the Civil Service Commission, the concerned accredited professional organization and specialty and subspecialty associations, and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall ensure the sustainability of the staffing of the Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center, subject to evaluation and approval of the DBM and in accordance with the civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 4. Medical Specialist and Experts. – The Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center under the Ospital ng Palawan is hereby authorized to contract the services of medical specialists or experts to provide specialty training and technical assistance.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with the Ospital ng Palawan, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DOH. Thereafter, the DOH shall include in the Department's program the establishment and operationalization of the Western Philippines Multi-Specialty Medical Center, the funding of which shall be included in the budget of the DOH under the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision herein shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof that are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,