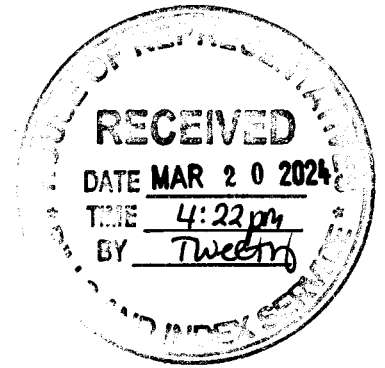


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10210



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO,
JOCELYN P. TULFO, AND ERWIN T. TULFO

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL
NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS, AND PROVIDING
FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dialysis is the clinical purification of blood as a substitute for the normal function of the kidney and involves a machine used to divert blood to be cleaned. People who have kidney failure, or end-stage renal disease (ESRD), may need dialysis.¹ Dialysis treatment may also be recommended if the patient is diagnosed to be in the late stage of chronic kidney disease (CKD).² With 7 million Filipinos estimated to have CKD, it is among the leading causes of sickness and death in the Philippines.³ Dialysis treatment can go on for many years.

Many patients can lead long, active, and fulfilling lives for 5, 10, 20 or more years while undergoing dialysis treatment. However, the length of time depends on many factors such as age, gender, other comorbidities, and how well the treatment plan is being followed.⁴ Ultimately, the withdrawal of dialysis treatment is one of the common causes of death in dialysis patients.⁵

¹ "Dialysis", Cleveland Clinic, <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/14618-dialysis>.

² "Chronic Kidney Disease", Cleveland Clinic, <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/services/chronic-kidney-disease-treatment>.

³ "7 million Filipinos have chronic kidney disease - expert", ABS-CBN News, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/02/23/7-million-filipinos-have-chronic-kidney-disease-expert>.

⁴ "How Long Can Someone Be On Dialysis", National Kidney Foundation, <https://www.kidney.org/newsletter/how-long-can-someone-be-dialysis>.

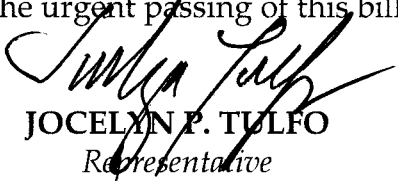
⁵ "Hemodialysis as a life-sustaining treatment at the end of life", National Library of Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6027813/#:~:text=Hemodialysis%20is%20one%20of%20the,at%20the%20end%20of%20life>.

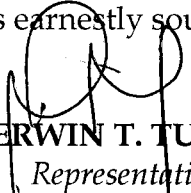
The cost of medical treatment for kidney disease remains exorbitant⁶ considering that the recommended frequency of dialysis treatment sessions is thrice a week,⁷ with each session amounting to PhP2,000.00 to PhP7,000.00.⁸ Those who are financially incapable then rely on government support for dialysis treatment. However, there is a need to improve the capacity of public health institutions in serving dialysis patients all over the country.

This proposed legislative measure seeks to establish, operate, and maintain a dialysis ward in all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals which shall be equipped with the complete dialysis machine equipment and supplies. Likewise, this bill provides that dialysis treatment in all these government hospitals shall be free of charge to indigent patients.

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


RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
Representative
2nd District of Quezon City


JOCELYN P. TULFO
Representative
ACT-CIS Partylist


ERWIN T. TULFO
Representative
ACT-CIS Partylist

⁶ "Kidney Health Plus", National Kidney and Transplant Institute, <https://nkti.gov.ph/index.php/news/newsroom/14-patients-and-visitors?start=12>.

⁷ "ARQCapital boosts bid to set up more dialysis centers in PH", Philippine News Agency, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1086669#:~:text=Given%20that%20the%20recommended%20frequency,sessions%20per%20year%20per%20patient>.

⁸ "Dialysis Price Per Session in Centers", Medical Pinas, <https://medicalpinas.com/dialysis-centers-philippines/>.

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1 **AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL**
2 **NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS, AND PROVIDING**
3 **FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS AND**
4 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
7 *assembled:*
8

9 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Dialysis Center Act of
10 2024”.

11
12 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
13 improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure hospital
14 facilities are available, affordable, and accessible to the people.

15
16 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms as used
17 in this Act shall mean the following:

18
19 (a) *National Government Hospital* refers to a hospital operated and maintained either
20 partially or wholly by the National Government or by any department or
21 division, board, or other agency thereof;
22

1 (b) *Regional Government Hospital* refers to a hospital operated and maintained either
2 partially or wholly by the Regional Government or by any department, division,
3 board, or other agency thereof;

4
5 (c) *Provincial Government Hospital* refers to a hospital operated and maintained either
6 partially or wholly by the Provincial Government or by any department, division,
7 board, or other agency thereof; and

8
9 (d) *Indigent Patient* refers to a patient whose combined annual family income does
10 not exceed Thirty Thousand Pesos (PhP30,000.00).

11
12 **SEC. 4. *Establishment, Operation, and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward or Unit.* -**

13 Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all national, regional, and provincial
14 government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate, and maintain a dialysis
15 ward in their hospital. The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with the complete
16 dialysis machine equipment and supplies.

17
18 **SEC. 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.* -** Dialysis treatment in all
19 national, regional, and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge
20 to indigent patients as defined in Section 3 (d) hereof.

21
22 **SEC. 6. *Penalty.* -** Any hospital chief, administrator, or officer-in-charge who fails to
23 comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos
24 (PhP50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP100,000.00).

25
26 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Agencies.* -** Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act,
27 the Secretary shall provide the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to
28 carry out the provisions of this Act. The IRR shall be published in the Official Gazette
29 or in a newspaper of general circulation.

30
31 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* -** The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this
32 Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the

1 amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in
2 the government hospitals' annual appropriations.

3
4 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is held
5 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts thereof not affected thereby
6 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7
8 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any provision of law or regulation inconsistent
9 herewith is hereby repealed, revoked, or modified accordingly.

10
11 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
12 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

13
14 *Approved,*