



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10571



Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO

**AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A
DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO
INDIGENT PATIENTS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Kidney diseases especially end stage renal disease (ESRD), now rank as the seventh leading cause of death among Filipinos, according to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi).¹ Patients catered by the same institute alone saw a 40-percent increase in the number of new patients between 2022 and 2023—a huge jump in cases in just a span of a year.² While other factors may have a part to play in the drastic increase in the number of cases such as increased awareness of the disease, the increase is seen to be attributed to a similar rise in the number of cases of diabetes and hypertension in recent years.

The current coverage of Philhealth for dialysis amounting to P2600.00 per session, for a total of 156 sessions annually cannot amply cover all the expenses dialysis patients need. This bill proposes free dialysis sessions on top of the Philhealth covered sessions to help indigent Filipinos receive the treatment that they need.

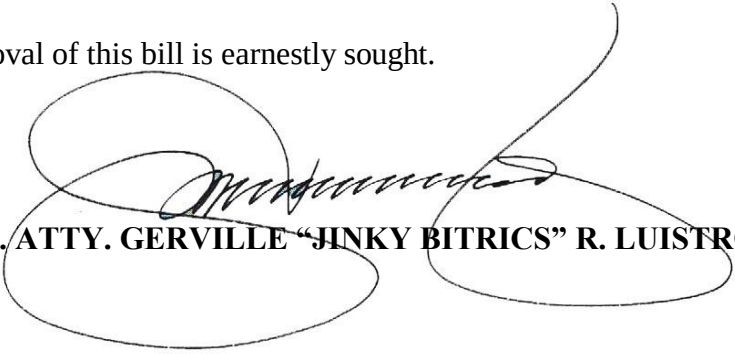
Furthermore, there is a need to institutionalize the establishment of fully equipped

¹<https://nkti.gov.ph/index.php/patients-and-visitors/kidney-health-plus>

²<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/2024/5/30/nkti-official-alarmed-by-40-rise-in-new-dialysis-patients-2030>

dialysis units or wards in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals in line with improving the responsiveness and accessibility of our healthcare system.

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



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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 “Dialysis Center Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of the State to improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the people.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) *National Government Hospital* – shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof.

(b) *Regional Government Hospital* – shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof.

(c) *Provincial Government Hospital* – shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the provincial government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof.

(d) *Indigent patient* – shall refer to a patient who have no visible means of income or whose income is insufficient for family subsistence, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

SECTION 4. *Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward or Unit.* Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their hospitals. The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies.

SECTION 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.* Dialysis treatment in all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent ESRD patients. This free dialysis treatment shall be equal to at least 90 sessions, to be applied exhaustively prior to the current number of sessions covered by Philhealth.

SECTION 6. *Penalty.* Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of the Department of Health shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implantation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Appropriation.* Such amount as may be necessary for the initial implementation of the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital's annual appropriations.

SECTION 9. *Separability.* If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,