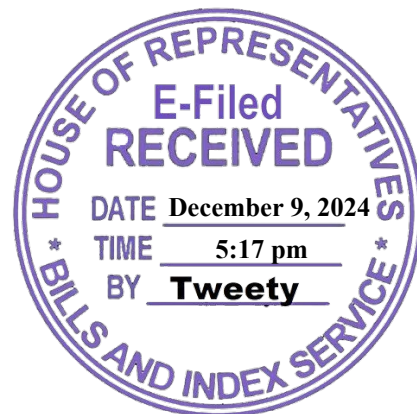


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session
House Bill No. **11183**



Introduced by **REP. PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

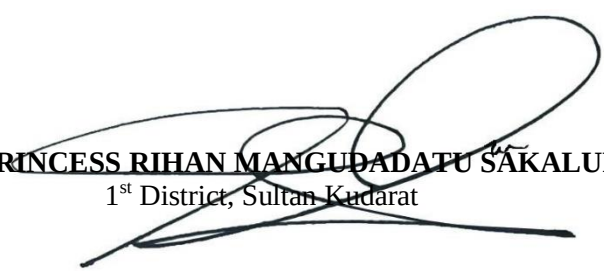
The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines guarantees the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of all citizens. Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution declares it a State policy to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Furthermore, Article XIII, Section 11 emphasizes the need to prioritize health, particularly the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Government health workers are indispensable in fulfilling the State's mandate to provide quality healthcare services to the Filipino people. They face immense challenges, including extended working hours, exposure to infectious diseases, and other occupational risks. In the course of performing their duties, they may encounter situations that give rise to legal cases—be it administrative, civil, or criminal. These cases often stem from decisions or actions taken in good faith as part of their official functions. Without adequate legal support, many health workers are left vulnerable, spending their limited resources on legal defense instead of focusing on their vital role in healthcare delivery.

Recognizing these realities, this bill seeks to institutionalize the provision of free legal assistance to government health workers who face charges arising from their official duties. This measure aims to ensure that health workers are given the necessary legal protection and representation, enabling them to perform their roles without fear of undue litigation or financial burdens from legal proceedings.

Through this proposed measure, the State not only ensures justice and equity for government health workers but also strengthens the overall healthcare system by allowing health professionals to focus on their critical responsibilities without undue distractions.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN
1st District, Sultan Kudarat

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **11183**

Introduced by **REP. PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT HEALTH
WORKERS AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FACING CHARGES
ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SEC. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Free Legal Assistance for Government Health Workers and Allied Health Professionals Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the indispensable role of health workers and allied health professionals in safeguarding the health and welfare of the people. It is therefore the policy of the State to protect and uphold the rights of government health workers and allied health professionals by providing them with adequate legal support when they face charges related to the performance of their official duties.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Government Health Workers* – Refers to medical, nursing, allied health, and administrative personnel employed in public healthcare institutions, including hospitals, clinics, and barangay health centers.
- (b) *Allied Health Professionals* – Refers to healthcare practitioners other than physicians and nurses who work in public healthcare settings to help diagnose, treat, and prevent illness and disease, and to promote health and wellness. These include, but is not limited to pharmacists, medical technologists, radiologic technologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, dietitians, and respiratory therapists.
- (c) *Service-related Cases* – Refers to civil, criminal, or administrative cases filed against government health workers involving incidents directly arising from their official functions.
- (d) *Service-related Incident* – Refers to any act or omission by a government health worker in good faith as a consequence of their official functions or duties.

SEC. 4. Free Legal Assistance. – All government health workers facing charges in connection with service-related incidents before any court, prosecutor’s office, or administrative body shall be entitled to free legal assistance under this Act.

SEC. 5. Coverage of Legal Assistance. – Legal assistance provided under this Act shall include:

- (a) Representation in all stages of legal proceedings;

- (b) Legal consultations and advice related to the case;
- (c) Drafting and preparation of pleadings, motions, and other legal documents;
- (d) Notarization of documents; and
- (e) Other legal services as necessary.

SEC. 6. Designation of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO). – The Public Attorney's Office (PAO), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), shall be the primary agency responsible for providing legal assistance to government health workers and allied health professionals under this Act. PAO shall prioritize cases involving service-related incidents of health workers and ensure timely and effective delivery of legal support.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. – The amounts necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included under the appropriations of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) under the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PAO, in coordination with the DOH and the Department of Justice (DOJ), shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 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,