

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1442



Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The hardships and serious health risks faced by government medical and health personnel became evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. These exposure to great risks by government medical and health personnel is akin to the risks that military or uniformed personnel face in the line of duty. As such, this representation finds it proper to also afford government medical and health personnel the right to retire at the age of fifty-six (56).

In addition, the early retirement of medical and health personnel in government service will also pave the way for employment of younger medical and health professionals. It is of public knowledge that a lot of Filipino medical and health professionals opt to leave the country for better opportunities abroad. Allowing long-time serving medical and health personnel to retire early will create more room for the government to take in medical and health personnel, which this representation sees as a feasible way to keep the younger medical and health personnel in the country. There is a real and immediate need to entice medical and health personnel to remain in the country to serve Filipinos in times of pandemics and other health catastrophes. Early retirement for medical and health personnel in the government service is one way of encouraging Filipinos to stay and serve their own countrymen.

The Constitution has declared it a policy to the right of Filipinos to health, to wit "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them" (Section 15, Article II, 1987 Constitution). Taking care of the people, who are primarily the ones who take care of the right to health of Filipinos, is well-within the promotion of such Constitutional fiat.

For the Filipino people, approval of the bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script that appears to be the initials or full name of the author.

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**AN ACT ALLOWING MEDICAL AND HEALTH PERSONNEL IN
GOVERNMENT SERVICE TO RETIRE AT THE AGE OF
FIFTY-SIX (56) YEARS OLD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as "**MEDICAL AND HEALTH PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE RETIREMENT AGE ACT.**"

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. The State recognizes the hardships and serious health risks that medical and health personnel in the government service face. The State values the importance that medical and health personnel in government service in nation-building with utmost importance.

Section 3. Retirement at the age of Fifty-Six Years Old. Medical and health personnel who have served in government service for a total period of not less than twenty (20) years shall have the right to retire at the age of fifty-six (56) years old. The mandatory retirement age of medical and health personnel in government service shall be sixty (60) years old.

Section 4. Coverage. For purposes of this Act, medical and health personnel in government service shall only pertain to those employees who actually and directly work in government health care facilities and systems. Medical and health care personnel in government service shall include nurses, medical doctors, dentists, radiologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychiatrists, pharmacists, medical technologists, physician assistants, midwives, veterinarians, and the like. Medical and health professionals who are employed in government service but do not have actual or direct functions relating to health care shall not be covered by this Act.

Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Civil Service Commission, Department of Health,

Professional Regulation Commission, and Government Service Insurance System shall work together and come-up with the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this law.

Section 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction executive orders, rules and regulations, or a part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,