

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 1519

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Introduced by: **REP. FERJENEL G. BIRON, M.D.**

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**"AN ACT CONVERTING THE DON VALERIO PALMARES SR. MEMORIAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE COMPONENT CITY OF PASSI, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, INTO A LEVEL-2 HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY, PLACING IT UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, formerly Passi District Hospital, was created by virtue of R.A. No. 6040. It is a Level 1 hospital operating only at a twenty-five (25) bed capacity since it began its operations in 1973. Sometime in 1992, Republic Act No. 7263 was passed upgrading the hospital to a capacity of fifty (50) beds, however, due to the hospital's devolution to the Provincial Government of Iloilo in 1993, such increase in bed capacity was never executed.

At present, Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, caters patients not only from Passi City but also from the neighboring Municipality of San Enrique, and additionally from the Municipalities of Dueñas, San Rafael, a part of Calinog and even Dumarao, Capiz. The incapacity of the hospital to accommodate the sick with the quality, immediacy, and efficiency of healthcare that is the right of every Filipino, is evident. This situation highlights the urgent need to expand and upgrade the hospital in anticipation of increasing demand within the district.

The hospital sits on a one-hectare property, which offers significant potential for development. This space can be fully utilized through the construction of essential infrastructure such as a perimeter fence, a warehouse, additional or expanded wards, and other key facilities. Likewise, acquiring advanced equipment and enhancing

service delivery are crucial to ensuring accessible, efficient, and high-quality healthcare. However, the hospital currently lacks the financial capacity to undertake these much-needed improvements.

In view of the foregoing, this Representation seeks to nationalize the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, upgrade its classification to Level 2, and increase its bed capacity from twenty-five (25) to two hundred (200). Furthermore, this measure proposes to allocate appropriate funding for the improvement of healthcare services, acquisition of modern medical equipment, expansion of facilities, and strengthening of the hospital workforce through its inclusion in the annual General Appropriations Act.

This bill was filed by the same Representation in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress and was referred to the Committee on Health.

In the interest of advancing public health and ensuring equitable healthcare access for all, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**REP. FERJENEL G. BIRON, M.D.**  
*Fourth District of Iloilo*

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

1           SECTION 1. The Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital in the  
2 Component City of Passi, Province of Iloilo, is hereby converted into a Level-2 hospital,  
3 which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health  
4 (DOH).

5           SEC. 2. The authorized bed capacity of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial  
6 District Hospital shall be increased from twenty-five (25) beds to two hundred (200)  
7 beds. Any future increase in bed capacity shall be consistent with the hospital  
8 development plan that shall be prepared by the Chief of Hospital of the Don Valerio  
9 Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital and submitted to the DOH.

10          SEC. 3. The existing professional health care services, equipment, and facilities  
11 of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital shall also be upgraded to  
12 conform with and be commensurate to the increase in bed capacity as provided for in  
13 Section 2 hereof.

14          SEC. 4. The existing workforce of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial  
15 District Hospital, which includes doctors, nurses and support personnel, shall be  
16 increased correspondingly.

1           SEC. 5. The Secretary of the DOH shall, after consultation with the Chief of  
2 Hospital of the Don Valerio Palmares Sr. Memorial District Hospital, and in  
3 coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, and  
4 the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, determine the additional new  
5 positions to be created and filled up.

6           SEC. 6. The Secretary of the DOH shall immediately include in the  
7 Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be  
8 included in the annual general Appropriations Act.

9           SEC. 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, and other presidential issuances  
10 which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
11 accordingly.

12           SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
13 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

14           Approved,