

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2135



Introduced by Representative Christopherson "COCO" M. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Sogod, located in the heart of Southern Leyte, serves as a strategic center for business, education, and transportation in the province's northern and eastern areas. Despite this, the residents of Sogod and its surrounding municipalities lack direct access to major hospitals in the region.

The absence of a nationally managed and funded hospital in Southern Leyte means that residents must often travel as far as Tacloban City, Leyte—over 110 kilometers and 2.5 to 3 hours away—to seek specialized or higher-level care. This creates undue burden on patients, especially during emergencies, and poses a serious threat to timely and equitable healthcare access in this geographically challenging province.

This proposed measure seeks to establish a Level II general hospital in the Municipality of Sogod, to be known as the *Southern Leyte Regional Hospital*, which shall be directly managed and funded by the Department of Health. As a Level II facility, it will be equipped to offer more advanced services including intensive care, general surgery, and internal medicine, among others—filling a critical gap in the local healthcare infrastructure.

It must be noted that in the previous budget deliberations, the Secretary of Health expressed support for this initiative in principle. However, the Department submitted a different position on the matter of funding, recommending that the proposed hospital be administered and funded by the local government unit (LGU). This recommendation, while appreciated, does not sufficiently address the long-standing healthcare gap in Southern Leyte—particularly in the context of equity in access to national health services.

As such, this bill is being refiled to reaffirm the necessity of establishing a DOH-retained and nationally funded general hospital in Sogod. Doing so will not only decentralize healthcare services in Region VIII, but also ensure that residents of Southern Leyte and its neighboring provinces including Samar, Bohol and Surigao, among others to receive the same level of care and access to public health resources.

The enactment of this measure will be a vital step toward realizing the government's commitment to Universal Health Care, especially for underserved and geographically isolated communities.

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

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CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN LEYTE REGIONAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in the Municipality of Sogod, Province of Southern Leyte, a Level II general hospital to be known as the Southern Leyte Regional Hospital, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 2. Any future increase in bed capacity, healthcare facilities, service capability, and human resource complement shall be based on the hospital development plan that shall be prepared by the DOH.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,