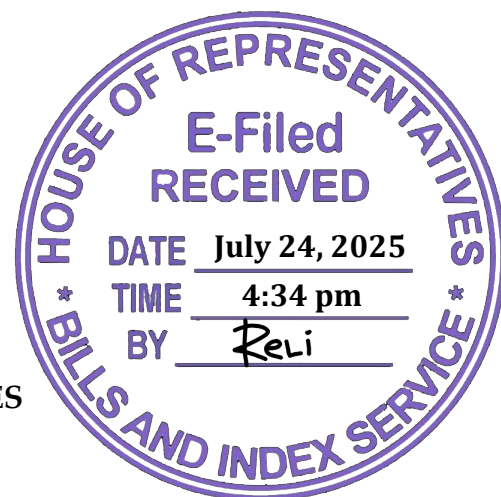




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIEH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2307

Introduced by: Hon. Ma. Victoria Co – Pilar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Teachers are the lifeblood of our educational system and the silent architects of national progress. They mold the minds and characters of future generations, often under challenging circumstances and with limited resources. Across the Philippines, many teachers travel long distances, cross rivers, and climb mountains—literally and figuratively—to fulfill their mission of educating the Filipino youth.

As of 2023, there are approximately 950,000 teachers in the Philippines, including those in public and private institutions. Of these, around 900,000 serve in the public sector, under the Department of Education (DepEd). These educators are responsible for teaching over 28 million learners across more than 46,000 schools nationwide. Despite their invaluable contributions, Filipino teachers continue to face heavy workloads, mental and physical stress, and often lack access to affordable and dedicated healthcare.

This bill seeks to honor their service and address a critical gap in social support by establishing a National Teachers Hospital—a government-run medical facility that will provide exclusive and specialized healthcare services for both active and retired teachers across the country. The hospital will serve as a referral center for medical treatment, wellness programs, mental health support, and preventive care tailored to the unique needs of educators.

In addition to providing medical care, the hospital will symbolize the State's long-overdue recognition of the role teachers play in building our nation. It shall be a center of excellence in teacher wellness, research, and medical innovation, helping ensure that our educators remain healthy, supported, and valued at every stage of their lives.

The creation of the National Teachers Hospital is not merely a benefit – it is a moral obligation. After decades of service shaping the minds and futures of our people, teachers deserve no less than the full support and gratitude of the country they helped build.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate and favorable passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. J. ...", with a stylized flourish at the end.



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AN ACT
CREATING THE NATIONAL TEACHERS HOSPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 the "National Teachers Hospital Act of the Philippines"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all people at an affordable cost. To this end, the State shall protect the interests and promote the well-being of teachers through the provision of social welfare services in recognition of their importance and contribution to economic development and nation-building.

SEC. 3. *Establishment National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines* - There shall be established a Level III hospital to be known as National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines (NTHP), which shall be under the supervision of the Department of Health (DOH). It shall primarily cater to the healthcare needs of teachers and non-

teaching personnel and their qualified dependents, subject to the limitation under existing laws, rules and regulations; *Provided*, That nothing here shall prevent the NTHP from accommodating patients other than teachers and non-teaching personnel or their qualified dependents.

The Medical Chief of the NTHP shall, in consultation with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the DOH, prepare the hospital development plan to reflect the development goals of the hospital, including its bed capacity and service capability. Requests for staffing requirements, capital outlay investments, and budgetary needs for operations shall be based on the hospital development plan.

SEC. 4. *Purpose and Objective* – The NTHP shall:

- (a) To construct, establish, equip, maintain, administer, and operate such integrated medical institution or institutions that shall cater to practicing and retired teachers;
- (b) Provide comprehensive and total health care services to all teaching and non-teaching personnel of public and private education institutions, whether active or inactive, their legal dependents, and the general public;
- (c) Serve as a referral facility for teaching and non-teaching personnel needing medical assistance and support.
- (d) Develop training programs for medical and allied medical professionals which shall focus on strengthening occupational-related health services and the creation of specialized services;
- (e) Raise public awareness and conduct a massive information drive on the prevention and control of diseases common to teaching and non-teaching professional, occupational health and safety, and physical fitness;
- (f) Assist and support universities, research institutions, and other hospitals or medical facilities in their studies on health-related concerns of both teaching and non-teaching personnel.

SEC. 5. *Powers* – For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above enumerated purpose and objectives, the National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines, acting through its Board of Trustees, shall have the following orders and functions, among other things:

- (a) Acquire and hold, in any manner, property of whatever nature or description, and to dispose of such property under any mode of

encumbrance or conveyance;

- (b) Contract and be contracted with;
- (c) Levy, assess, and collect such fees, charges, and assessments as may be necessary or proper to support, finance, and maintain its operation;
- (d) Mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey, or otherwise dispose of its properties;
- (e) Invest in, and purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease, grant, mortgage, sell, transfer or otherwise deal with, real and/or personal properties of every kind and nature, including shares of stock, bonds, notes, and other evidence of indebtedness or obligations of other corporations whether government or private;
- (f) Solicit and receive donations, endowments, and funds in the form of contributions, whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations;
- (g) Open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions, and to disburse such funds or invest the same as the DMW Secretary may direct to accomplish or advance the purposes or interest of the hospital;
- (h) Invite foreign specialists and similar experts in the various medical fields not available in the country, to train the personnel, trainees, and residents;
- (i) Send the personnel to research institutes, medical institutes, or universities for advanced training or observation and to attend international or regional conventions, conferences, congresses, and seminars as the Medical Center Chief may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the hospital and subject to the approval of the DOH Secretary;
- (j) To adopt by-laws, rules and regulations not contrary to law to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines;
- (k) To obtain loans, borrow funds and/or arrange financing or credit assistance of whatever kind and nature from all lawful sources, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private, and to mortgage, pledge or otherwise encumber any of its properties and assets for the purpose of securing or guaranteeing the performance or fulfillment of any obligation it may undertake for itself or for other entities in which it may be interested;
- (l) Exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines.

SEC. 6. *Board of Trustees* - The National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines shall be governed and its activities and properties be directed and controlled and managed by a Board of Trustees, which shall be composed of a Chairman and eight (8) members two of whom are bona fide teachers licensed by the Professional Regulatory Commission, the medical director of the NTHP, all of whom to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Department of Health and the Department of Education jointly, the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Secretary of the Department of Health, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, all of whom shall serve as ex officio members.

The members of the Board of Trustees shall serve for a period of six (6) years and/or until their successors shall have been appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the board, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member.

The Board shall elect a Chairman from among themselves, who shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Trustees.

Five (5) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact business and any decision of such five (5) members on any matter duly presented to the Board of Trustees shall constitute a valid and binding act of the National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines.

SEC. 7. *Support from other Government Agencies*. – The DepEd shall ensure that existing health benefits and medical assistance programs are strengthened for teaching and non-teaching personnel and their qualified dependents: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or reduce their existing benefits and their dependents provided under Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “*Universal Health Care Act*.”

All other agencies, departments, bureaus, offices, or instrumentalities of the government, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, shall render assistance to the NTHP for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Congressional Oversight Committee*. – There is hereby created a Joint

Congressional Oversight Committee, which shall be jointly chaired by the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the House of Representatives Committee on Health. It shall be composed of five (5) members from the Senate and five (5) members from the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively: *Provided*, That at least one (1) member from each house shall come from the Minority.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations* – The amount of one billion pesos is hereby appropriated for the initial operation of the National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines, which shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Health and the Department of Education jointly under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the necessary amount to support the continued operation and maintenance of the National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Annual Report* – The National Teachers Hospital of the Philippines shall render to the Department of Health and the Department of Education, the House of Representatives, and the Senate of the Philippines an annual report on its operations and accomplishments.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH shall, in consultation with the DepEd stakeholders, promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 18. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.