

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**

**First Regular Session**

**House Bill No. 2369**



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**Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion  
3rd Congressional District, Camarines Sur**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

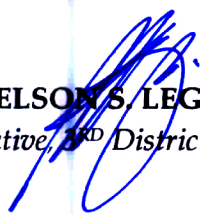
The Bicol Medical Center (BMC), located in Naga City, is the premier tertiary health care institution for the Bicol Region. It was established in 1933 as the Camarines Sur Provincial Hospital with a 25-bed capacity. Over the decades, it expanded to 500 by 1998. In July 2020, Republic Act 11478 was enacted, officially increasing BMC's authorized bed capacity to 1,000 beds. It also upgraded its facilities, staffing, and services to support the expansion.

But even after expanding to 1,000 beds, BMC remained overstretched, especially in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In November 2021, average admissions were at 175% of capacity – roughly around 1,750 inpatients daily. Clearly, the situation in BMC calls for urgent upgrades in equipment and staffing.

As of September 2023, BMC was positioning itself as a Level III tertiary hospital with a bigger bed capacity target. Presently, BMC's key infrastructure developments include a Cancer Institute, Cardiology Center, a dedicated surgery and trauma/burn center, new CT scan facility, poison control center, lactation room and more, like expansion of specialty services (psychiatry, pulmonary, critical care, integrated IT systems). Additional specialty centers like oncology, renal transplant, mental health, neurosurgery and infectious disease are being deployed to support the expanded bed base. Rising population, aging demographics, and regional demand for responsive health care once again exceeded BMC's capacity and strained its workforce.

By expanding capacity and bolstering facilities and personnel, this bill aims to ensure that the BMC continues delivering “the highest standard of health care” to Bicolanos.

Above premises considered, approval of this bill is being earnestly sought.

  
**NELSON S. LEGACION**  
*Representative, 3<sup>RD</sup> District, Camarines Sur*

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session  
House Bill No. **2369**

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Introduced by District Representative Nelson S. Legacion  
Third Congressional District, Camarines Sur

**AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BICOL MEDICAL CENTER  
FROM ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS TO TWO THOUSAND BEDS (2,000),  
UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE  
SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL WORKFORCE  
COMPLEMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 11478, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**Section 1.** Increase in Bed Capacity. – The existing bed capacity of the Bicol Medical Center (BMC), located in Naga City, Camarines Sur, is hereby increased from One Thousand (1,000) to Two Thousand (2,000) beds. The Secretary of Health shall implement the increase in bed capacity of the BMC consistent with the Development plan of the hospital.

**Section 2.** Upgrade of Service Facilities. –The existing hospital facilities and professional health care services of the BMC are also hereby upgraded and increased to conform with and be commensurate to the bed capacity increase as provided for in Section 1 hereof.

**Section 3.** Increase in Personnel. – Upon consultation with the management of the BMC, the Secretary of Health shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and

**Section 3. Increase in Personnel.** – Upon consultation with the management of the BMC, the Secretary of Health shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and Management and the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, determine the additional plantilla to be created and filled up in the workforce of the BMC.

**Section 4. Hospital Development Plan.** – The Chief of the BMC shall develop a hospital development plan, to be submitted to the Department of Health (DOH), to reflect the development goals of the hospital, consistent with the increased in bed capacity and service capability as provided in Section 1 and 2 hereof. Request for the staffing requirements, capital outlay investments and budgetary needs for operation shall be based on the hospital development plan.

**Section 5. Appropriation.** – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Section 6. Separability Clause.** – 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.

**Section 7. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 11748, otherwise known as "*An Act Increasing the Bed Capacity of the Bicol Medical Center from Five Hundred (500) Beds to One Thousand (1,000) Beds, Upgrading its Service Facilities and Professional Health Care Services, Authorizing the Increase of its Medical Workforce Complement Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8053, and Appropriating Funds Therefor,*" is hereby amended accordingly. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

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

Approved,

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