

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2647**



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*Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samantha Taliño Santos*

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**AN ACT REQUIRING ALL REGIONAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITALS AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a serious and escalating global health crisis, affecting an estimated 9.1% to 13.4% of the world's population. Alarming, the Philippines faces a far graver situation, with a prevalence rate of 35.94%. This serious disparity highlights an urgent public health emergency.<sup>1</sup>

According to National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) the number of individuals undergoing dialysis treatment has reached 64,845 in 2024, a 22-percent increase from 53,296 recorded in 2023.<sup>2</sup> The increasing number of patients with chronic kidney disease has become a national concern due to the burden of the disease and high costs of care. Dialysis sessions cost between Php 2,000 to Php 7,000, making it inaccessible to many patients. One Filipino dies from kidney failure every hour.<sup>3</sup> These figures highlight the urgent need for strengthened government support through establishing regional dialysis centers.

Article 13 Section 11 of the Constitution provides that, "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

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<sup>1</sup> Chronic Kidney Disease in the Philippines: A Silent Epidemic (2025). <https://capitolmedical.com.ph/articles-and-blogs/chronic-kidney-disease-in-the-philippines-a-silent-epidemic/>

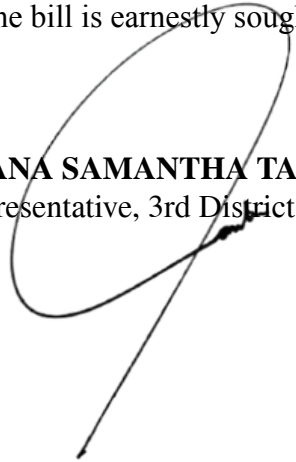
<sup>2</sup> Philippine News Agency (2024). <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1252423>

<sup>3</sup>Media, U. P., & Office, P. R. (2020, December 1). <https://up.edu.ph/up-webinar-takes-on-the-challenges-of-kidney-disease-and-dialysis-in-a-time-of-covid/>

Hence, it is a constitutional mandate that health services shall be available to all the people at affordable costs. This bill seeks to establish dialysis centers in all regional government hospitals across the country. Once established, these centers shall provide dialysis treatment free of charge to indigent Filipinos.

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

**MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS**  
Representative, 3rd District of Cotabato



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

Section 1. **Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “*Regional Dialysis Center Act.*”.

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to improve the delivery of health services to the people and to ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the people. The State further endeavors to provide free medical care and assistance to its indigent or pauper citizens.”

Section 3. **Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. **Regional Government Hospital** – refers to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- a. **Indigent Patient** – refers to patient who has no visible means of income, compensation or financial assistance from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, or whose income is insufficient for family subsistence, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

Section 4. **Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward or Unit.** – Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all regional hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their hospital. The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies.

Section 5. ***Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.*** – Dialysis treatment in all regional hospitals shall be provided free of charge, without limit, to indigent patients as defined in Section 3 (d) hereof.

Section 6. ***Penal Provisions*** –

(a) A public official or employee who commits the following acts shall, after due notice and hearing, suffer the corresponding penalties as herein provided:

(1) Commits an unethical and fraudulent act or abuse of authority, shall be suspended for three (3) months without pay for the first offense and dismissal from service for the succeeding offense;

The abovementioned administrative penalty shall be without prejudice to the filing of criminal charges under Republic Act No. 3019, otherwise known as the “Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act” and existing penal laws.

(b) Any person who commits fraud or misrepresentation as to his/her indigency or financial incapacity shall render the assistance void and shall make the person liable for twice the amount of assistance provided and suffer the penalty of imprisonment from six (6) months to not more than two (2) years

Section 7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of DOH shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section. 8. ***Appropriations.*** – Such amount as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital’s annual appropriations.

Section. 9. ***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. 10. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section. 11. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*