

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2817



Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**
1st District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State is mandated to “protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them” (Section 15, Article II). It further 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers” (Sect. 11, Art. XIII).

Health facilities and services, in order to be beneficial to the people, must be adequate, affordable and “accessible.” The problem with our health system is that the major specialty hospitals, namely, the Philippine Heart Center, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Children’s Medical Center, the Philippine Orthopedic Center, and the Philippine Cancer Center, are all located in the Metropolitan Manila area, specifically in Quezon City. Most Filipino patients residing outside the capital region, afflicted as they are with their ailments or injuries, are additionally burdened with the additional cost of transportation and accommodation. This sometimes insurmountable issue of distance tends to deny said patients with quality healthcare which in effect renders illusory the constitutional guarantee of “right to health” of our people.

This measure aims to establish a Northern Luzon branch for these much needed specialty hospitals.

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


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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING SATELLITE SPECIALTY HOSPITALS IN NORTHERN
LUZON TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED MEDICAL CARE,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 and cited as the ‘Satellite Specialty Hospitals for Northern Luzon Act.’”

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 and adequate to the people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State shall ensure accessibility of medical facilities and availability of specialized health care through the establishment of branches or satellites of government specialty hospitals for the people in Northern Luzon.

SEC. 3. Establishment of Satellite Specialty Hospitals in Northern Luzon. – The following satellite specialty hospitals in Northern Luzon to be located in one center or compound in between the Municipalities of Badoc, Ilocos Norte and Sinait, Ilocos Sur are hereby established under the supervision of the Department of Health:

- (a) Philippine Heart Center
- (b) National Kidney and Transplant Institute
- (c) Lung Center of the Philippines
- (d) Philippine Children’s Medical Center
- (e) Philippine Orthopedic Center
- (f) Philippine Cancer Center
- (g) Other specialty hospitals

These satellite specialty hospitals in Northern Luzon shall be administered by the Board of Trustees of their mother units (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) and shall have an initial bed capacity of five hundred (500) each.

SEC. 4. *Purposes and Objectives.* – The purposes and objectives of the Satellite Specialty Hospitals in Northern Luzon are:

(a). To construct, establish, operate and maintain the Northern Luzon branches of the specialty hospitals specified in this Act for the public welfare;

(b) To extend medical and heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal and cancer treatment services to the general public; to help prevent, relieve or alleviate the heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary and cancer afflictions and maladies of the people especially the poor and less fortunate in life, without regard to race, creed, color or political belief;

(c) To encourage and/or undertake the training of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal and cancer treatment services, and related activities;

(d) To promote, encourage and engage in scientific research on the prevention of heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal and cancer diseases and the care and/or treatment of such diseases and related activities, including sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;

(e) To stimulate and/or underwrite scientific researches on the biological, demographic, social, economic, eugenic, physiological aspects of heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal disorders and abnormalities and cancer and its control, and gather, compile, and publish the findings of such researches for public dissemination;

(f) To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, treatment and control of heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal diseases and cancer; to arouse, enhance, and develop public interest on such diseases and arouse consciousness or awareness on general health and physical fitness;

(g) To assist universities, hospitals and research institutions in their studies of heart, kidney, liver, pulmonary, musculoskeletal anomalies and cancer; to encourage advanced training on matters of, or affecting the heart, kidney, liver, lungs, musculoskeletal system and cancer, and related fields and to support educational programs of value to general health; and

(h) To encourage the formation of other organizations on the national, provincial, city, municipal or barangay level and to coordinate their various efforts and activities for the purpose of achieving a more effective programmatic approach on the common problems relative to the objectives herein enumerated.

SEC. 5. *Medical Director.* – The branches of specialty hospitals under this Act shall each be headed by a Medical Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Board.

The Medical Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

(a) Execute the policies, guidelines and programs approved by the Board, and be responsible for the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;

(b) Submit for the consideration and approval of the Board proposed measures, policies, guidelines and programs as may be deemed necessary or proper for the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Act;

(c) Direct and supervise the management, operation and administration of the respective branch of specialty hospital under his jurisdiction, and may delegate this power and any or some of his administrative responsibilities and duties to the other officers of the hospitals;

(d) Execute, on behalf of the Board, all contracts and agreement which the latter may enter into, and to execute, accomplish and deliver any and all documents relative to such contracts and agreements;

(e) Represent the specialty hospital branch, on behalf of the Board, in all dealings with other offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the government, and all other persons or entities, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private;

(f) Recommend to the Board the appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal, and suspension of the officers and employees of the hospitals; and

(g) Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed by the Board.

SEC. 6. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – The Board shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the branches of specialty hospitals established under this Act, subject to the evaluation by the Civil Service Commission and of the Organization, Position Classification and Compensation Bureau of the Department of Budget and Management.

SEC. 7. *Tax Exemptions and Privileges.* – All existing tax exemptions and privileges of the Philippine Heart Center, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the Lung Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Children's Medical Center and the Philippine Cancer Center shall be applicable to their Northern Luzon branches.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount of Five Billion Pesos (Php 5,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as contribution of the national government for the initial establishment, operations, and maintenance of the Northern Luzon

specialty hospitals, for the year 2023. Thereafter, the amount necessary to ensure the continued operations and maintenance of the Northern Luzon specialty hospitals shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Annual Report.* – Each specialty hospital in Northern Luzon shall submit to their respective mother units, the Department of Health, the President of the Philippines, and the Congress of the Philippines annual reports of its activities, accomplishments, and recommendations.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Health, in consultation with the Medical Director or Chief of Hospital of the respective mother unit of the specialty hospital shall issue such rules, regulations, and other issuances as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. *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.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,