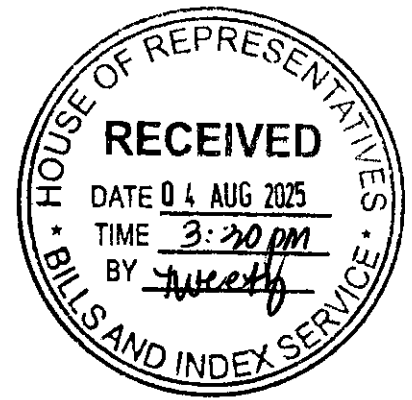


TWENTIETH CONGRESS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

HOUSE BILL NO. 2935

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution states that *"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them"* (Article II, Section 15). It further mandates 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"* (Article XIII, Section 11).

To uphold these constitutional guarantees, Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care Act (UHC Act), was enacted to ensure that every Filipino has access to comprehensive, quality, and affordable health services, without incurring financial hardship. The law emphasizes the need for a strong public health system where no one is left behind, especially the poor and marginalized.

Iligan City, a highly-urbanized city in Northern Mindanao, has a rapidly growing population now estimated at over 400,000 residents. It serves as a commercial and service hub for nearby areas such as Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Misamis Occidental, and parts of Misamis Oriental. Despite its strategic location and growing demand for public services, Iligan lacks a fully equipped public hospital under the management of the Department of Health (DOH) that can accommodate advanced and specialized medical cases.

The city's sole government hospital, the Gregorio T. Lluch Memorial Hospital, also known as the "City Hospital," is owned and managed by the local government unit (LGU). It faces significant constraints due to spatial limitations and insufficient resources. The hospital is experiencing ongoing shortages of essential medical equipment, modern diagnostic tools, and specialized services. These limitations make it difficult to meet the growing demand for healthcare. Consequently, patients frequently encounter prolonged waiting periods, restricted treatment options, and, in some instances, are referred to private hospitals or medical centers in other cities—an option that many cannot afford.

The nearest DOH-managed tertiary hospitals are the Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan de Oro, more than 80 kilometers away, and the Amai Pakpak Medical Center in Marawi City, around 50 kilometers from Iligan. These hospitals are already operating at full capacity, serving their areas—Northern Mindanao Medical Center caters to Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, Camiguin, and parts of CARAGA, while Amai Pakpak primarily serves the Bangsamoro Region. Referring patients from Iligan to these facilities adds unnecessary travel costs, delays critical treatment, and places additional strain on already overburdened hospitals. Many underserved families from Iligan City cannot afford the transportation, lodging, and other expenses, leaving them with no choice but to delay or forgo treatment.

The resource limitations at the City Hospital not only compromise the quality of care but also place an immense burden on healthcare workers, who remain committed to providing optimal services despite these challenges. The situation underscores the urgent need for increased investment, infrastructure development, and stronger policy support to strengthen the public healthcare system in Iligan City.

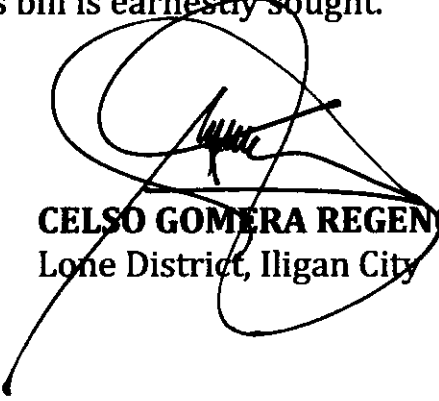
The UHC Act mandates that every Filipino should have access to a well-equipped hospital within a reasonable distance. Regrettably, the current situation in Iligan falls short of this standard. The absence of a modern, DOH-managed hospital forces residents to endure unnecessary hardships, worsening health outcomes for many.

This bill proposes the establishment of a district hospital in Iligan City to be known as the **Iligan Regional Medical Center**. This state-of-the-art tertiary healthcare facility aims to serve not only Iligan but also the neighboring provinces. Unlike the existing City Hospital, which relies heavily on LGU

funding, the Iligan Regional Medical Center will be under the management of the DOH, thereby ensuring access to enhanced resources, modern medical facilities, and specialized services. This development is expected to ease the strain on regional hospitals currently experiencing overcrowding and to provide timely, life-saving care to those in urgent need.

The right to health is a fundamental promise enshrined in our Constitution and laws. By establishing the Iligan Regional Medical Center, we take a crucial step toward fulfilling that promise for the people of Iligan and Northern Mindanao.

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



CELSO GOMERA REGENCIA
Lone District, Iligan City

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 2935

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN ILIGAN CITY TO BE KNOWN AS
THE “ILIGAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER” AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the Filipino people and to instill health consciousness among them. In line with this, the State shall ensure the equitable provision of accessible, affordable, and quality health care services to all, especially in underserved and growing urban areas such as Iligan City.

SECTION 2. *Establishment of the Iligan Regional Medical Center* - There shall be established, under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), a tertiary-level district hospital in Iligan City to be known as the “**Iligan Regional Medical Center.**” The hospital shall provide comprehensive, accessible, and affordable health care services to residents of Iligan City and nearby areas.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*- The DOH shall issue necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Interagency and Community Collaboration*- To ensure the effective operation, sustainability, and community integration of the Iligan

Regional Medical Center, the DOH shall collaborate with the local government of Iligan City, relevant educational institutions, and private stakeholders. Such collaboration may include, but shall not be limited to, the training and deployment of healthcare professionals, internship and residency programs, public health research, medical outreach, and health promotion initiatives.

SECTION 5. *Site Identification* - The DOH, in coordination with the local government of Iligan City, shall identify and secure an appropriate site for the establishment of the Iligan Regional Medical Center, taking into consideration factors such as accessibility, population density, and future expansion.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations*- The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the program of the DOH the establishment, operation and maintenance of the Iligan Regional Medical Center, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations for the DOH. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the capital outlay and the continued operation of the district hospital shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,