

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No **3147**



Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4th DISTRICT, BULACAN

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
OF DIALYSIS WARD IN ALL NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS FOR THE TREATMENT OF INDIGENT PATIENTS FREE OF CHARGE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Healthcare services should be made affordable and accessible by the State to all its citizens. To effectively implement this policy, both the national and local governments should jointly address health issues that require immediate and regular intervention.

Presently, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is the among the leading causes of sickness and death in the Philippines.¹ The latest data indicates that 2.3 million Filipinos are afflicted with CKD². The National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) estimates that one Filipino develops chronic kidney failure every hour or about 120 Filipinos per million populations per year³. Because of its increasing number of cases as well as the high cost care, the CKD currently costs more than breast, lung, colon and skin cancer combined⁴.

The existential effect is that kidney patients wanting dialysis treatment on a regular and sustained basis have to travel all the way to urban centers just to avail of the needed dialysis treatment. Miscellaneous expenses will be incurred in addition to the required thrice weekly or approximately 156 dialysis sessions in one year.

The proposed measure mandates all national, regional and provincial government to indigent patients for free.

Support for the enactment of this bill is earnestly requested.

REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

¹ <https://doh.gov.ph/health-programs/chronic-kidney-disease-prevention-and-control/policies>

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1177310>

³ <https://nkti.gov.ph/index.php/patients-and-visitors/kidney-health-plus>

⁴ <https://www.kidney.org/kidney-disease/global-facts/about-kidney-disease#:~:text=10%25%20of%20the%20population%20worldwide,have%20access%20to%20affordable%20treatment>

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PATIENTS FREE OF CHARGE

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall know as “Dialysis Center Act”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is declared the policy of the State to upgrade healthcare services. It shall guarantee that the utilization of hospital facilities are affordable and accessible to the people.

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

- (a.) *National Government Hospital* is that which is operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- (b.) *Regional Government Hospital* is that which is operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- (c.) *Provincial Government Hospital* is that which is operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or other political subdivision, or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof; and
- (d.) *Indigent Patient* is one who has no visible means of income, compensation or financial assistance from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

SEC. 4. *Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward.* – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward in their hospital. The dialysis ward shall be equipped with a complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies.

SEC. 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.* – Dialysis treatment in all national, regional and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients as defines in Section 3 (d) hereof.

SEC. 6. *Penalty.* – Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its date of effectivity: *Provided*, That the failure of the promulgation of the said rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

SEC. 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 implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital's annual appropriations.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the reminder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,