

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3160**



Introduced by **HON. JERRY E. PEREZ**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A LEVEL 3 GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE VITALI
MEDICAL CENTER IN THE DISTRICT OF VITALI, CITY OF ZAMBOANGA, UNDER
THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to health is a constitutional mandate. Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” Similarly, Article XIII, Section 11 provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development and make essential health services available to all at affordable cost, prioritizing the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

To operationalize these constitutional guarantees, Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, mandates equitable access to quality and affordable health services. Section 2 of the UHC Act states the State policy to ensure that all Filipinos have access to a comprehensive set of health services without financial hardship. Section 3 of the same Act underscores the need for an organized and integrated health service delivery network across the country.

In line with this, Republic Act No. 4226, known as the Hospital Licensure Act, sets the legal and regulatory standards for the establishment and licensing of hospitals to ensure compliance with minimum requirements for safety, efficiency, and quality of care.

The District of Vitali, located in the far eastern part of Zamboanga City, is a major population center encompassing numerous barangays and serving as the gateway to the Zamboanga Peninsula. Despite its strategic location, there is no government hospital in the district that provides comprehensive and advanced medical care. Residents must travel more than an hour to reach hospitals in Zamboanga City proper, causing delays in life-saving interventions.

The establishment of a Level 3 general hospital in Vitali, to be known as the Vitali Medical Center, will bridge this gap. A Level 3 hospital is a tertiary facility that provides specialized and subspecialty care, advanced diagnostic and surgical services, and serves as a training and teaching center for medical and health professionals. It also supports the DOH's hospital development goals under the Universal Health Care framework.

This proposed hospital will primarily serve the eastern barangays of Zamboanga City and will also augment healthcare capacity for neighboring municipalities such as Tungawan and R.T. Lim in Zamboanga Sibugay, given their proximity to Vitali. It will decongest existing hospitals in Zamboanga City proper and strengthen the health system's capacity to manage emergencies, public health crises, and routine care.

By establishing this facility, the State will fulfill its obligation to make health services more accessible, equitable, and responsive to the needs of the people, especially in geographically underserved areas.

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



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

SEC. 1 Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Vitali Medical Center Act of 2025.”

SEC. 2 Declaration of State Policy and Principle. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos and to instill health consciousness among them, as mandated under Article II, Section 15 and Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution.

Consistent with the objectives of Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care Act, the State shall ensure that all Filipinos have equitable access to quality and affordable health care services without financial hardship.

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 4226, or the Hospital Licensure Act, the State shall establish and maintain hospitals that comply with the standards for safety, efficiency, and service capability to deliver comprehensive health care, including preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative services.

The establishment of the Vitali Medical Center in the District of Vitali, Zamboanga City is consistent with this policy, to provide accessible and responsive health care services to the people of Zamboanga City, particularly the eastern barangays, and to augment the health service capacity of nearby municipalities such as Tungawan and R.T. Lim in Zamboanga Sibugay.

SEC. 3 Establishment of the Vitali Medical Center. There is hereby established in the District of Vitali, City of Zamboanga, a Level 3 General Hospital to be known as the Vitali Medical Center (VMC), which shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 4 Scope and Services. The Vitali Medical Center shall:

- a. Have an initial authorized bed capacity of one hundred (100) beds, expandable as necessary;
- b. Be equipped with advanced medical, diagnostic, surgical, and ancillary facilities;
- c. Provide comprehensive health services, including emergency, inpatient, outpatient, and specialized care; and
- d. Serve as a training and research hospital for medical and allied health professionals, consistent with DOH standards for Level 3 hospitals.

SEC. 5 Hospital Classification and Upgrading. The Vitali Medical Center shall be classified as a Level 3 General Hospital in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 4226 (Hospital Licensure Act) and relevant DOH regulations. Any increase in bed capacity, upgrading of services, and expansion of facilities shall be in accordance with the hospital development plan prepared by the Department of Health.

SEC. 6 Funding. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Vitali Medical Center. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued operation and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The City of Zamboanga may provide counterpart funding for land acquisition, site development, and support services.

SEC. 7 Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 8 Separability Clause – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9 Repealing Clause – Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10 Effectivity Clause – This Act shall take effect upon completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.