

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3510



Introduced by Representative Edsel A. Galeos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Furthermore, Article XIII Section 11 states 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 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.”

The proposed measure seeks to authorize the Department of Health (DOH) to increase the bed capacity of its retained hospitals as necessary.

In a recent statement¹, the Department of Health (DOH) recognized that one of the most pressing issues faced by the country’s healthcare system is hospital overcrowding, especially in public hospitals. Currently, for every 1000 people, only 0.5 hospital beds are available. Some provinces even have less than 0.5 per 1,000 population bed density. The DOH recommends the population bed density to be tripled, making 1.5 beds available for every 1,000 Filipinos².

At present, legislation is necessary to increase the bed capacity of DOH-retained hospitals. This process entails the allocation of resources that could otherwise be directed toward other initiatives. To streamline this process and ensure responsiveness to the needs of the healthcare system, the DOH should be authorized to increase the bed capacity of hospitals in accordance with the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan and based on prevailing health exigencies.

The proposed measure was passed on third and final reading in the House of Representatives during the 18th Congress but was not approved before the Senate due

¹ GMA News Online, *PH needs strong preventive care – DOH*, available at <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/941002/ph-needs-stronger-preventive-care-doh/story/> (last updated March 29, 2025).

² PhilStar Global, *Philippines needs to triple hospital bed capacity – DOH*, available at <https://qa.philstar.com/headlines/2025/01/16/2414683/philippines-needs-triple-hospital-bed-capacity-doh> (last visited July 24, 2025).

to lack of material time. During the 19th Congress, the measure was refiled and subsequently approved by the Committee on Health.

For the foregoing reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



EDSEL A. GALEOS

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**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) TO SET
AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY OF ALL DOH HOSPITALS**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “DOH Hospital Bed Capacity
2 Rationalization Act.”
3

4 **SECTION 2.** The Act shall streamline the process for approving changes in the
5 authorized bed capacities of all Department of Health (DOH) hospitals.
6

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health (DOH) is granted the authority to adjust
8 and approve the authorized bed capacities of all DOH hospitals. Thereafter, the DOH
9 shall, through an administrative order, determine the bed capacities of DOH
10 government hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that shall be issued and
11 promulgated, within three (3) months after the enactment of this Act.
12

13 **SECTION 4.** The DOH shall provide Congress, through the Committee on
14 Health of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health and Demography
15 of the Senate, an annual report of hospitals with approved bed capacity, along with the
16 necessary funding requirements.
17

18 **SECTION 5.** The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department’s programs
19 in the funding requirements for the increase in bed capacity of each of the hospital in
20 accordance with the Philippine Hospital Development Plan and the
21 Modernization/Development Plan of each hospital, the funding of which shall be
22 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
23

24 **SECTION 6.** The DOH shall formulate the rules and regulations to implement
25 this Act within ninety (90) days of its effectivity.
26

27 **SECTION 7.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or
28 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
29 modified accordingly.
30

1 **SECTION 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
2 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
3
4 Approved,