

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3596**



Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL "Atty. Nat" M. ODUCAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The greatest wealth of our nation is our People. In healthcare systems worldwide, managing hospital bed capacity is a critical component in ensuring timely and effective patient care. As populations grow and health needs evolve, the demand for hospital beds fluctuates, requiring strategic planning and investment. One important question is whether the decision to increase bed capacity should still be left to the legislative or should it be devolved to the Department of Health?

As provided in Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution, "[t]he 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." This is further supported by the enactment of Republic Act No. 11223 or the "Universal Health Care Act", which aims to "ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care".

On average, it takes around 3.6 years for a law increasing bed capacity to pass as a law. It will take another 3 to 4 years for the hospital to be built in line with such increase. By the time that the hospital is in operation, the needed bed capacity might have already changed. This places the risk of fast and efficient hospital.

The shortage of hospital beds in the country became even more evident during the surge of COVID-19 cases during which some patients had to receive immediate care inside their vehicles in the hospital parking lots.¹ Moreover, the rise of diseases will place the brink of the health care program at risk, if we respond to it late. Recently, our country has faced the lack of bed capacity due to the increase cases of leptospirosis.²

With this legislation, we capacitate the hospitals with a faster response. It seeks to authorize the DOH to set and approve the bed capacity and service capability of all DOH hospitals. Through this bill, the DOH shall have the power to address the mismatch in occupancy of Filipino

¹ Lopez, M. (2021, April 6). Patient gets COVID treatment inside car pending hospital admission. CNN Philippines last accessed at <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/4/5/patient-COVID-19-treatment-car-outsidehospital.html>

² Gatchalian, C. (2025, August 9). We prioritize critically ill patients': Public hospital emergency rooms exceed capacity as leptospirosis cases rise, last accessed at <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/health-science/2025/8/9/public-hospital-emergency-rooms-exceed-capacity-as-leptospirosis-cases-rise-1314>

patients' access to healthcare and improve the quality of government health services. The DOH shall also provide Congress with an annual report of hospitals with approved bed capacity, along with the necessary funding requirements.

It is time to give the Filipino a government that focuses on their important health needs. It is time to give Our People who underwent so much a government that they deserve – a government that listens and improves the life of the ordinary Filipino citizen.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill and approval of the same is earnestly sought.



REP. NATHANIEL "ATTY. NAT" M. ODOCADO
1 Tahanan Party List

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Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “ATTY. NAT” M. ODUCAO**

AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DETERMINE AND
APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY AND SERVICE CAPABILITY OF ALL
EXISTING AND NEWLY-ESTABLISHED HOSPITALS UNDER THE DIRECT
SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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

3 **SEC. 2. *Approving Authority on Hospital Bed Capacity and Service Capability.*** –
4 Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to determine and approve the bed capacities and
5 corresponding service capabilities of all existing and newly-established hospitals under its
6 supervision and control, subject to the development plans of hospitals, catchment population,
7 burden of disease, availability of human resources, health care provider network, and other
8 standards to be determined by the DOH.

9 The DOH shall coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management relative to
10 the organizational and staffing standards and funding requirements for the upgrading of bed
11 capacities of hospitals.

12 **SEC. 3. *The Philippine Health Facility Development Plan.*** – The Philippine Health
13 Facility Development Plan developed by DOH shall guide the modernization and development
14 plans of all government health facilities, and in order to access capital outlay investment
15 through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH and other national government
16 capital outlay investment mechanisms: *Provided, That the PHFDP shall be subject to regular*

1 assessment and review by the DOH every five (5) years in order to determine the need for
2 further increase in bed capacity and service capabilities.

3 **SEC. 4. *Funding.*** – The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department’s
4 programs the funding requirements for the adjustment in bed capacity and service capability of
5 each DOH hospital in accordance with the PHFDP and the hospital’s modernization and
6 development plan, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General
7 Appropriations Act.

8 **SEC. 5. *Reporting and Oversight.*** – The DOH shall submit to Congress, through the
9 Committee on Health of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health and
10 Demography of the Senate, an annual report of hospitals with approved bed capacities, along
11 with the necessary funding requirements.

12 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Health shall
13 formulate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity
14 of this Act.

15 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
16 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
17 effect.

18 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
19 regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended,
20 or modified accordingly.

21 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
22 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,