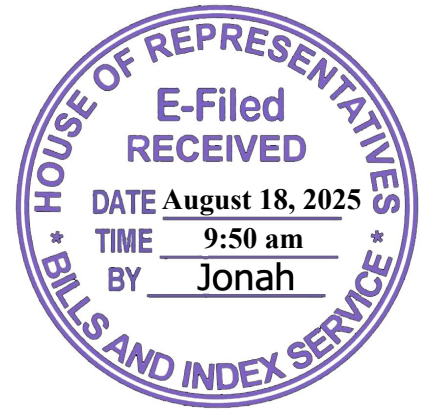


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3776



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET AND APPROVE
THE BED CAPACITY OF ITS RETAINED HOSPITALS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Department of Health currently supervises and controls 89 retained hospitals nationwide. These institutions include a diverse mix of levels and specialties, supported by four Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC) specialty hospitals – namely the Lung Center of the Philippines, National Kidney Transplant Institute, Philippine Heart Center, and Philippine Children’s Medical Center.

In 2019, DOH hospitals recorded an average of 30,309 daily inpatients, while roughly discharging only one-tenth of them. This patient load pushes the four-hospital system to an average bed occupancy rate of 131%, meaning that approximately three out of four hospitals operate beyond their licensed bed capacity. This rate significantly exceeds the World Health Organization-recommended range of 80-85%, raising concerns about potential compromise of service quality and patient care.

Under the current regulations, expanding bed capacity or upgrading service capabilities for government-owned hospitals- including those under the DOH- requires new legislation. This process is time-consuming, often taking eight months to three years, which delays necessary enhancements to meet growing healthcare demand.

Such a mismatch between capacity and actual demand threatens the State’s commitment to Universal Health Care by limiting hospitals’ ability to accommodate increasing patient volumes and compromising timely delivery of services, staffing, infrastructure, and other resources.

To address these challenges, this bill proposes to grant the Department

of Health the administrative authority to determine and approve changes in bed capacity and corresponding service capabilities of its retained hospitals. This would enable prompt, evidence-based adjustments responsive to real-time healthcare demands, improving efficiency and access.

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



REP. PM VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*DOH Hospital Bed Capacity Rationalization Act.*”

SECTION 2. Purpose, Scope, and Coverage. – This Act shall streamline the process for approving changes in the authorized bed capacity of all Department of Health (DOH) retained hospitals.

SECTION 3. Authority to Approve. – Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to adjust and approve the authorized bed capacity of its retained hospitals. Thereafter, the DOH shall, by administrative or department order, increase, decrease, or maintain the bed capacity of its retained hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that it shall issue and promulgate, within six months, after the enactment of this law.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. – Amounts necessary to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Health.

SECTION 5. Annual Report to Congress – The Department of Health shall provide Congress, through the House and Senate Committees on Health, an annual report on hospitals with approved bed capacity changes, along with the necessary funding requirements.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of Health shall come up with the IRR, within three (3) months after the law’s effectivity.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,