



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



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3338

Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) remain the leading cause of mortality in the Philippines, accounting for more than 35% of all deaths nationwide, according to the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The Bicol Region is no exception to this alarming trend. In Region V, CVDs such as ischemic heart disease, hypertensive heart disease, and stroke are consistently ranked among the top causes of death, with stroke alone ranking first in the region's mortality statistics in recent years.

According to the DOH Field Health Service Information System (FHSIS) and the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (RESU)—Bicol, the region recorded over 13,000 deaths due to cardiovascular-related illnesses in the past five years, with Albay Province consistently contributing a significant share to this figure. The lack of specialized cardiovascular centers within the region forces many patients, especially those from low-income and geographically isolated communities, to travel to Metro Manila or other urban centers for treatment, delaying care and often worsening their condition.

Albay Province, with a population of over 1.3 million, serves as the regional gateway and economic center of Bicol. Despite being home to a tertiary DOH hospital and several provincial health facilities, there is no existing institution within the province or the region fully dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart-related conditions. Access to advanced cardiac diagnostic equipment, skilled cardiovascular surgeons, and rehabilitation services remains

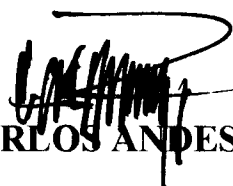
limited or unavailable at the local level. These systemic gaps contribute to increased out-of-pocket health expenditures, late detection of cardiovascular conditions, and higher case fatality rates among Bicolanos.

This proposed measure seeks to address this critical public health challenge by establishing the Philippine Heart Center for the Bicol Region (PHC-Bicol), to be strategically located in the Municipality of Daraga, Province of Albay, under the supervision of the Department of Health. As a constituent specialty hospital of the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City, the PHC-Bicol will be equipped to provide comprehensive cardiovascular care, including specialized diagnostics, therapeutic and surgical interventions, emergency cardiac care, post-treatment rehabilitation, and public health outreach programs.

The Center will also serve as a training ground for local medical personnel, helping build a sustainable pipeline of heart specialists and skilled healthcare workers in the region. It will support research and development on cardiovascular diseases tailored to the health needs and risk profiles of Bicolanos, including those related to lifestyle, nutrition, and environmental factors.

The establishment of the PHC-Bicol will bring specialized, equitable, and affordable cardiac care closer to the people of Albay and the rest of the Bicol Region. It is a vital step toward reducing preventable deaths, improving quality of life, and fulfilling the constitutional mandate to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos.

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


CARLOS ANDES LORIA

1 cardio-vascular diseases in the country, particularly in the Bicol Region, through
2 specialized medical services for the prevention and treatment of heart and allied
3 diseases.

4 **SEC. 3. *Philippine Heart Center for Bicol Region.*** –The Philippine Heart
5 Center for the Bicol Region, to be known as the Philippine Heart Center-Bicol,
6 hereinafter referred to as “PHC-Bicol,” is established in the Municipality of Daraga,
7 Province of Albay, with a bed capacity of at least one hundred fifty (150) and under
8 the supervision of the Department of Health. The PHC-Bicol shall be administered
9 by the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” of the Philippine
10 Heart Center as a constituent specialty hospital.

11 **SEC. 4. *Medical Director.*** – The PHC-Bicol shall be headed by a Medical
12 Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, upon the
13 recommendation of the Board.

14 The Medical Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- 15 a) Execute the policies, guidelines and programs approved by the Board,
16 and oversee the efficient discharge of management and operational functions;
- 17 b) Propose measures, policies, guidelines and programs as may be deemed
18 necessary or proper for the effective implementation of the purposes and objectives
19 of this Act for the consideration and approval of the Board;

1 c) Direct and supervise the management, operation and administration of
2 the PHC-Bicol, and delegate administrative responsibilities and duties to other
3 officers of the hospitals;

4 d) Execute all contracts and agreements that the Board may enter into, and
5 accomplish and deliver any document relative to such contracts and agreements;

6 e) Represent the PHC-Bicol in all dealings with other offices, agencies
7 and instrumentalities of the government, and other persons or entities;

8 f) Recommend to the Board the appointment, promotion, transfer,
9 dismissal, and suspension of the officers and employees of the hospitals; and

10 g) Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested
11 or reposed by the Board.

12 SEC. 5. ***Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** – The Board shall
13 determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the PHC-Bicol, and
14 may reorganize the structure, modify the staffing pattern, and create or abolish
15 divisions, sections or units in the PHC-Bicol, subject to the approval of the
16 Department of Budget and Management.

17 SEC. 6. ***Program for Indigents.*** – The PHC-Bicol shall adopt and enforce
18 a program for indigents and allocate not less than forty percent (40%) of the total
19 number of hospital beds for indigent patients.

1 SEC. 7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
2 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in consultation with the
3 Board of Trustees of the Philippine Heart Center, formulate and promulgate the rules
4 and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

5 SEC. 8. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the establishment, initial
6 operation and maintenance of the PHC-Bicol shall be charged against the current
7 Contingent Fund. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued
8 operation and maintenance of the PHC-Bicol shall be included in the annual General
9 Appropriations Act.

10 The local government units in the Bicol Region may contribute or donate land,
11 building, equipment and facilities to PHC-Bicol. as may be approved by the
12 respective *Sanggunian*.

13 SEC. 9. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules
14 and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
15 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

16 SEC. 10. ***Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
17 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general
18 circulation.

19 Approved,