

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3950**



Introduced by **Representative FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, INTO
SOCCSKSARGEN REGIONAL AND MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED
CAPACITY, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND
FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 15, declares that: *“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”*

For decades, **Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)** has remained without a fully functional regional hospital. The **Cotabato Regional Medical Center**, which previously catered to patients from Region XII, is now within the jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and primarily serves the Bangsamoro people. The nearest alternative, the **Southern Philippines Medical Center** in Davao City, is already overburdened as the country’s largest hospital.

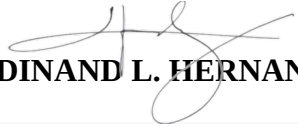
To address this glaring inequity, Congress earlier established the **SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital (SGH)** in Surallah, South Cotabato. However, its current capacity of one hundred (100) beds and limited facilities are not commensurate with the growing health demands of the more than **five million residents of Region XII**.

Thus, this bill seeks to convert the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital into the **SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center**, increase its bed capacity to **five hundred (500)**, upgrade its professional health care services and facilities, authorize the creation of

additional plantilla positions for medical and support staff, and ensure sufficient government funding through the General Appropriations Act.

In his State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. emphasized that **health is one of the top priorities of his administration**. The conversion of SGH into a full-fledged regional and medical center directly aligns with this commitment and will help reduce mortality rates, provide equitable access to quality medical care, and uplift the standard of health services for the people of SOCCSKSARGEN.

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


FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

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

SEC. 1. Conversion. - The SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital (SGH) in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato, is hereby converted into the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center (SRMC).

SEC. 2. Increase in Bed Capacity. The authorized bed capacity of the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center shall be increased from (100) to one thousand five hundred (1,500) beds to be implemented over a period of not more than three (3) years from the approval of this Act. Future increases in bed capacity shall be consistent with the hospital development plan prepared by the Chief of Hospital and submitted to the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 3. Upgrade of Services and Facilities. The existing professional health care services and facilities of the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional and Medical Center shall also be upgraded and expanded to conform with, and be commensurate to, the increase in bed capacity as provided for in Section 2 of this Act.

SEC. 4. Increase in Workforce. The existing workforce of the SRMC shall be correspondingly increased. The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall determine the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled up in accordance with existing civil service laws and rules.

SEC. 5. *Appropriation.* – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of this Act. The amount necessary to carry out its implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 6. *Implementing Authority.* - The Secretary of Health shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette in a newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,