

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. **3953**



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

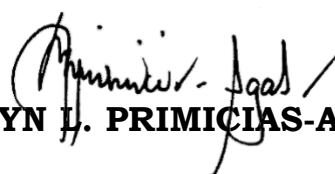
This bill seeks to amend the Local Government Code of 1991 by requiring local government units to allocate at least 15% of their IRA for health services including the provision of free medicines for their constituents.

It is very sad to note that many Filipinos who are sick have little to no access to medicines and hospital services. Many are thus forced to just ignore their sickness or just deal with it. And while they may be attended to in health centers or hospitals, they, however, cannot but the medicines prescribed.

Our Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people. To be able to do this, everyone should have free access to medicines. Poverty should not prevent the sick from getting access to medicines that can save their lives.

The most appropriate and quick source of funding for free medicines to indigent patients is the Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA) of local government units.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested


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AN ACT

REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO EARMARK AT LEAST FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THEIR NATIONAL TAX ALLOTMENT SHARE FOR HEALTH SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 287 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. Section 287 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 287. Local Development Projects AND HEALTH SERVICES. – Each local government unit shall appropriate in its annual budget no less than twenty percent (20%) **AND FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%)** of its annual [internal revenue] **NATIONAL TAX** allotment for development projects **AND HEALTH SERVICES, RESPECTIVELY.** Copies of the development plans **AND HEALTH PROGRAMS, INCLUDING PROVISION OF FREE MEDICINES TO INDIGENT PATIENTS,** of local government units shall be furnished the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH).**

**HEALTH PROGRAMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARDS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA SET BY
THE DOH PURSUANT TO PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT.”**

SEC. 2. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,