



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4269**



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT

UPGRADING THE SOGOD DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE INTO A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOGOD GENERAL HOSPITAL, 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

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that: “The state shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” This is further bolstered by Article XIII, Section 11 which provides in part that: “The 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 people at affordable cost.” Moreover, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), to which the Philippines is a member, the right to health includes access to timely, acceptable, and affordable health care of appropriate quality.

In furtherance of the above provisions, this bill seeks to upgrade the existing facilities and workforce of the Sogod District Hospital by increasing its capacity from twenty-five (25) beds to one hundred fifty (150) beds and converting it from a Level I to a Level II hospital. This upgrade is consistent with modern medical needs of the people in the southern parts of the Island of Leyte

and its neighboring provinces which includes Samar, Bohol, and Surigao, among others.

This measure is necessary to address the needs of a new district, considering the challenges it faced due to COVID-19 and the impact of Typhoon Odette on the health care system of the southern parts of the Island of Leyte. Further, the hospital's existing capacity and service scope are no longer sufficient to meet the increased patient volume. It lacks specialized departments (such as intensive care, internal medicine, orthopedic surgery, and diagnostic imaging) that patients requiring more advanced care are forced to be referred to cities which entail additional cost, travel time, and risks, especially during emergencies.

During the 19th Congress, this measure was approved in the Committee on Health on 17 May 2023.

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



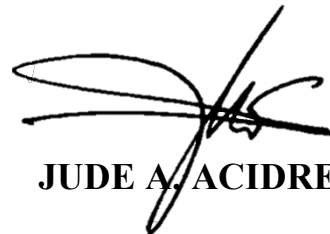
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



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

Section 1. The Sogod District Hospital in the Municipality of Sogod, Province of Southern Leyte, is hereby upgraded into a Level II General Hospital to be known as the Sogod General Hospital (SGH), under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health (DOH).

Section 2. The authorized bed capacity of SGH shall be increased from twenty-five (25) to one hundred fifty (150) beds. The increase in bed capacity shall be implemented for a period of not more than five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act.

Any future increase in bed capacity shall conform and be consistent with its hospital development plan, which shall be prepared by the Medical Center Chief of the SGH and submitted to the DOH.

Section 3. The existing professional health care facilities and services of the SGH are also hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the increase in bed capacity as provided in Section 2 hereof, consistent with the hospital development plan and the requirements of modern-day medical services.

Section 4. The existing workforce of the SGH, which include doctors, nurses, and support personnel, shall also be increased accordingly to conform with Section 2 of this Act.

The additional new positions to be created and filled up shall, only after consultation with the Chief of SGH, be determined by the Secretary of the DOH, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management and the Commissioner of the Civil Service Commission.

Section 5. The Secretary of the DOH shall immediately include the Department's programs and the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The provincial government of Southern Leyte shall continue to provide the same level of financial assistance to the SGH until such time that the national government shall have fully funded the capital outlay requirements of the hospital, its expenses for operations, and compensation of personnel in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 6. If any part or provision of this act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. All laws, decrees, executive order, rules and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

Section 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,