



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4646**



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

AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET AND
APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY AND SERVICE CAPABILITY OF ALL
DOH HOSPITALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

In the Philippines, for every 1,000 people, only 0.5 hospital beds are available on average. This is a far cry from the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation of the ideal ratio of 20 hospital beds per 10,000 people, which equates to 2 beds per 1,000 people in a country¹.

Currently, the only manner by which the Department of Health (DOH) hospitals can increase their bed capacity is through legislation. This situation poses

¹ Flores, D. N. (2025, January 16). *Philippines needs to triple hospital bed capacity* — DOH. Retrieved September 18, 2025, from <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/philippines-needs-to-triple-hospital-bed-capacity-doh>

limitations in addressing the basic facilities of our hospitals. Thus, there is a need to empower the DOH to administratively determine and approve the bed capacity of DOH hospitals to ensure necessary expansion without having to wait for multiple legislative measures that would address their needs.

Given that the DOH has the capacity and expertise to determine the appropriate bed capacity of government hospitals to suit the demand for hospital care in the locality, this bill seeks to grant the DOH the authority to determine and approve the bed capacity and service capability of existing government hospitals to ensure appropriate and accessible health care for all Filipinos.

This bill was originally filed by Representative Mark O. Go in the Nineteenth Congress, and was primarily referred to the Committee on Health.

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



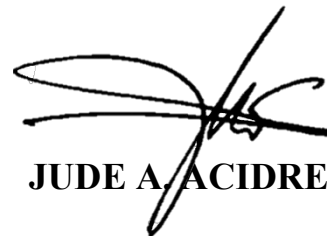
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "DOH Hospital Bed Capacity and Service Capability Rationalization Act."

SEC. 2. Purpose, Scope, and Coverage. - This Act shall streamline the process of approving changes in the authorized bed capacities and corresponding service capabilities of all Department of Health (DOH) hospitals.

SEC. 3. Authority to Approve. - Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to adjust and approve the authorized bed capacities and corresponding service capabilities of hospitals under its supervision and control, taking into consideration the development plans of hospitals, catchment population, burden of disease, availability of human resources, health care provider network and other standards to be determined by the DOH. The DOH shall, through an administrative issuance, determine the bed capacities and service capabilities of DOH hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that it shall issue and promulgate, within three (3) months, upon the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHDP). - The DOH shall develop the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHDP) to guide the modernization and development plans of all government health facilities, and in order to access capital outlay investment through Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the DOH and other national government capital outlay investment mechanisms.

The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's programs the funding requirements for the adjustment in bed capacity and service capability of each DOH hospital in accordance with the PHFDP and the hospital's modernization and development plan, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Annual Report to Congress. - The DOH shall provide Congress, through the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives and the Committee on

Health and Demography of the Senate, an annual report of hospitals with approved bed capacities, along with the necessary funding requirements.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 8. 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.

SEC 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,