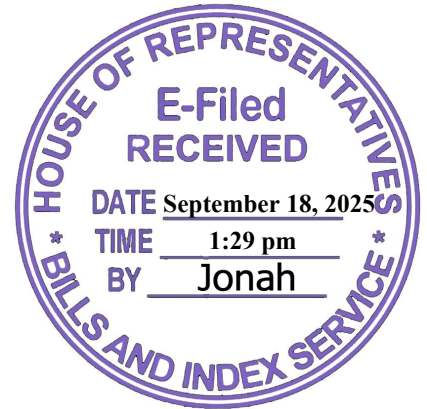




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4676



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

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND PROVIDING FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Further, Section 11, Article XIII of the same Constitution provides 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 an affordable cost; prioritize the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children; and provide free medical care to paupers.

End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) remains a growing health concern in the Philippines, with thousands of Filipinos depending on dialysis treatment as a life-saving measure. According to the Department of Health, kidney disease consistently ranks among the top causes of mortality in the country. While PhilHealth has expanded its benefit package to cover up to ₱6,350 per hemodialysis session for 156 sessions annually, which is equivalent to three sessions per week or nearly ₱990,600 in financial protection per patient, significant gaps remain in terms of accessibility and equity of services. Many patients, particularly those from indigent families, continue to face barriers due

to the high cost of laboratory tests, medicines, and transportation, as well as the lack of accessible dialysis facilities in provincial areas.

This measure seeks to address such challenges by mandating the establishment of dialysis clinics in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals, ensuring that life-saving treatment is brought closer to patients in need. It further guarantees that indigent patients shall be accorded free dialysis sessions, in line with the constitutional mandate of the State to protect and promote the right to health and to make essential health services accessible to all Filipinos.

By complementing existing PhilHealth benefits with a direct State-funded program, this bill bridges the gap between financial coverage and actual service delivery. It not only expands healthcare infrastructure but also ensures that no Filipino suffering from kidney failure is deprived of timely and appropriate treatment simply because of poverty or geographical location.

Similar measures were filed during the 19th Congress.

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



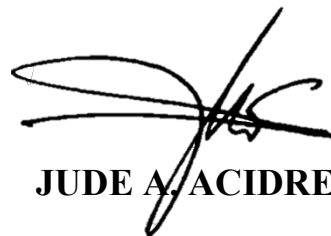
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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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 “*Dialysis Clinics in All Hospitals Act.*”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. For this purpose, the State shall ensure that patients suffering from End Stage Renal Disease are accorded timely and appropriate treatment with the provision of accessible dialysis clinics and free dialysis treatments.

Section 3. *Establishment of Dialysis Clinics in all National, Regional, and Provincial Hospitals.* – There shall be established dialysis clinics in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals in the country. The dialysis clinics shall be equipped with sufficient machines, equipment, paraphernalia, and supplies, and staffed with the appropriate number of medical and other personnel, including a dietician who shall recommend the appropriate diet to each patient depending on the condition of the patient.

The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with local government units and other relevant government agencies, shall lead the establishment of these clinics.

Section 4. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.* – The DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, shall ensure that indigent patients are accorded free dialysis treatments in national, regional, or provincial hospitals.

For this purpose, “*indigent patient*” refers to a patient who has no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of his family, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Section 5. *Authority to Receive Donations and Exemption from Donor’s Taxes, Customs, and Tariff Duties.* – The DOH shall have the authority to receive donations, gifts, and bequests to augment the funding for the establishment of the dialysis clinics created in accordance with this Act. All donations, contributions, or endowments which may be made by persons or entities to the dialysis clinics in national, regional, and provincial hospitals and

the importation of medical equipment and machineries, spare parts and other medical equipment used solely and exclusively by the dialysis clinics shall be exempt from income or donor's taxes, any other direct or indirect taxes, wharfage fees and other charges and restrictions.

Section 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the implementation of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 7. *Appropriations.* – An initial amount of One Billion Pesos (Php 1,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the necessary fund for the proper implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,