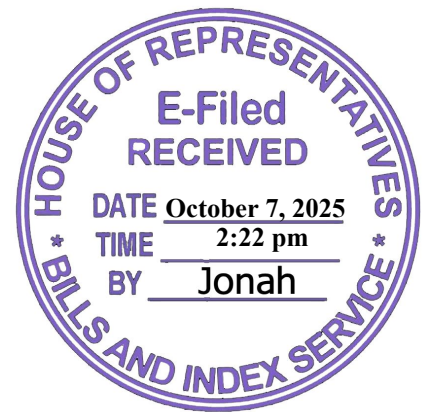


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5235



Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippine health system, hospital expansion often takes longer to legislate than to build. For decades, the increase of even a few hospital beds in a Department of Health (DOH) facility has required an act of Congress. Each additional hospital bed or service upgrade had to queue behind other legislative priorities, often waiting longer than patients in an overcrowded emergency room. This procedural rigidity has become both impractical and inefficient in view of a rapidly changing health landscape.

The Capacity Upgrading and Rationalization for Efficiency (CURE) Act seeks to remedy this condition by empowering the DOH to determine, adjust, and approve the appropriate bed capacities and service capabilities of hospitals under its supervision. By doing so, the bill replaces bureaucracy with responsiveness and ensures that government hospitals can adapt swiftly to changing health needs, population growth, and emerging diseases.

Anchored on the principles of the Universal Health Care Act, this measure strengthens evidence-based and data-driven decision-making. It directs the DOH to use the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP) as a blueprint for planning and implementing hospital modernization, guided by population health data, disease burden, and resource distribution.

To preserve transparency and accountability, the CURE Act requires the DOH to publish all approved adjustments, submit fiscal impact statements, and report annually to Congress. This ensures that flexibility does not mean freedom from oversight, and that every additional bed is backed by data, need, and proper funding.

The proposed CURE Act is a legislative prescription for an administrative ailment. It treats the inefficiencies that delay hospital development and allows our health facilities to recover their capacity to serve.

It is time to cure the system that keeps our hospitals from healing the nation.

In view of the foregoing, and with the conviction that public health needs to evolve faster than our legislative calendar, the immediate enactment of this bill is earnestly sought.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" AGUILAR CRUZ
Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan



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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5235

Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA “AGAY” A. CRUZ**

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

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Capacity Upgrading and
2 Rationalization for Efficiency (CURE) Act.”
3

4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 protect and promote the right to health of the people by ensuring the availability,
6 accessibility, and efficiency of public health services throughout the country. Consistent
7 with the principles of universal health care, the State shall strengthen the national hospital
8 system through rational planning, evidence-based decision-making, and responsive
9 governance. Toward this end, the State shall empower the Department of Health (DOH)
10 to determine, adjust, and approve the bed capacities and service capabilities of its
11 hospitals to:
12

- 13 (a) Ensure that hospital facilities remain adequate, equitable, and adaptive to the
14 changing health needs and population demands of every region;
15 (b) Promote efficiency and accountability in the allocation and use of health
16 resources;
17 (c) Institutionalize transparency and performance monitoring in hospital planning
18 and operations; and
19 (d) Facilitate modernization and integration of health facilities within the national
20 and local health care provider networks.
21

22 Through this Act, the State affirms that timely and data-driven adjustments in
23 hospital capacity are essential to achieving a responsive, resilient, and people-centered
24 health system.

1
2 **Section 3. Purpose, Scope and Coverage.** – This Act shall streamline the process for
3 approving changes in the authorized bed capacities and corresponding service
4 capabilities of all DOH hospitals.
5

6 **Section 4. Authority to Approve.** – The DOH is hereby authorized to adjust and
7 approve the bed capacities and corresponding service capabilities of hospitals under its
8 supervision and control. It shall take into consideration the development plans of the
9 hospitals, catchment population, burden of disease, availability of human resources,
10 health care provider network, and other standards to be determined by the DOH. The
11 DOH shall, through an administrative issuance, determine the bed capacities and service
12 capabilities of DOH hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that shall be issued and
13 promulgated, within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act.
14

15 **Section 5. Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP).** – The DOH
16 shall continue to update, enhance, and implement the Philippine Health Facility
17 Development Plan (PHFDP) to guide the modernization and development plans of all
18 government health facilities, and in order to access capital outlay investment through the
19 Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH and other national government
20 capital outlay investment mechanisms.
21

22 The Secretary of Health shall include in the DOH's programs the funding
23 requirements for the adjustment in bed capacity and service capability of each DOH
24 hospital, in accordance with the PHFDP and the hospital's modernization and
25 development plan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
26 Appropriations Act.
27

28 **Section 6. Conversion, Upgrading, and Modernization of DOH Hospitals.** – The
29 DOH shall upgrade and modernize the existing equipment and facilities of DOH hospitals
30 to ensure that it shall be responsive to the health needs of the people commensurate with
31 the bed capacity and service capability.
32

33 **Section 7. Annual Report to Congress.** – The DOH shall provide Congress, through
34 the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health
35 and Demography of the Senate, an annual report on hospitals with approved bed
36 capacities, along with the necessary funding requirements.
37

38 **Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – The DOH shall formulate
39 the IRR of this Act within ninety (90) days upon its effectivity.
40

41 **Section 9. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
42 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in
43 full force and effect.
44

1 **Section 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and
2 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4
5 **Section 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

7
8 *Approved,*