

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5654



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MILAGROS AQUINO – MAGSAYSAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the bed capacity of Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRRMMC), the mother facility which supports the National Center for Geriatric Health (NCGH).

As a Department of Health (DOH)-run apex hospital catering to predominantly indigent patients, it provides a wide range of medical services to numerous clients. It is also a referral center for patients from far-flung provinces, and the increased influx causes longer waiting hours. JRRMMC boasts of an annual average census of 13,542 In-Patients and 232,780 Out-patients over the past three (3) years. With its recent designation as a Specialty Center for Brain and Spine Care, Dermatology, Trauma, Burn, Orthopedic, Neo-Natal, Cancer and Geriatric Care, ENT-NHS and Eye Center, a certain surge in patient volume can already be anticipated. With an authorized bed capacity of 450, JRRMMC consistently exceeds this limit, often reaching 575 actual bed census. There is a clear mismatch between the limited bed capacity of 392 public/service beds and 58 private/paying beds, that has resulted in over-capacity and lengthy waiting lists. JRRMMC's strained resources is compounded by insufficient manpower which compromises delivery of high-quality healthcare.

While the NCGH was provided a separate and independent budget, it has however, proven insufficient to meet the increasing and complex demands of its elderly patients, forcing the hospital to remain dependent on JRRMMC for over a decade and further burdening its already strained resources. Foremost among Filipino senior citizens' concerns is their health status and well-being, characterized by degenerative and chronic diseases due to ageing, as well as some physical impairments and disabilities. As such, the Philippine healthcare system must provide for their needs through comprehensive and strategic interventions, including highly-specialized facilities with properly trained and skilled medical professionals.

Increasing JRRMMC's bed capacity from 450 to 1,000 will enable it to accommodate more patients with special needs. Increasing its capacity then, will help JRRMMC have more resources

to improve its systems and provide better services as it continues to modernize through ample training programs and research.

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



MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY

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**AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE JOSE R. REYES
MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER (JRRMMC), AND MAXIMIZING ITS
FUNCTIONALITY AS A SPECIALIZED GERIATRIC HOSPITAL BY RECOGNIZING
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR GERIATRIC HEALTH (NCGH) AS ITS DEDICATED
DEPARTMENT FOR FILIPINO CITIZENS**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the “*JRRMMC Increased Bed Capacity Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to protect and promote the health and well-being of Filipino senior citizens by providing a comprehensive and holistic healthcare program, with accessible and affordable services, including state-of-the-art medical facilities for quality, specialized geriatric care.

This is in consonance with the 1987 Constitution’s Article XIII on Health mandating under Section 11 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 the people at affordable cost. There shall be **priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.** The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.*” It is likewise declared under Section 12 that “The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and ***undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country’s health needs and problems.***”

SECTION 3. Purpose and Objective. The primary purpose and objective of this Act is to allow JRRMMC an increase from 450 bed capacity to at least 1,000 capacity limit, both for public/service beds and private or paying patients.

With this improvement, it is likely to encourage as well the up-to-date training of physicians, nurses, medical technicians, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of geriatric services; and extend geriatric services to the general public, to help manage, relieve or alleviate the afflictions and impairments of senior citizens or the elderly, specially the poor and less fortunate in life, without regard to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religious or political belief.

SECTION 4. Operations of the JRMMC – The National Center for Geriatric Health (NCGH) will serve and function as the Department of Geriatric Medicine for the JRMMC, which is one of the core functions of the JRMMC as a tertiary-level hospital. Remaining under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH) in terms of hospital services and medical standards, the JRMMC will ensure its continued support for the NCGH. This support includes providing basic geriatric services like screening, detection, geriatric assessment, and care management, with the aim of advancing to a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach that is also capable of offering transitional and palliative care.

SECTION 5. Authority and Basis – The JRMMC's increased bed capacity shall conform to the DOH-developed Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP) 2020-2040 which aims to guide national and local government units in health infrastructure investment. The plan not only focuses on increasing the bed capacity of hospitals but also on investing in health human resources and sustained financing. The DOH shall continue to update, develop, and implement the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP) to guide the modernization and development plans of all government health facilities, and in order to access capital outlay investment through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH and other national government capital outlay investment mechanisms. The Secretary of Health shall include in the DOH'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.

SECTION 6. Medical and Administrative Personnel – The required number of medical staff and administrative support personnel shall be consistent with the actual operations and services offered by the JRMMC. Said manpower component shall likewise be in compliance with the DOH standards for specialty hospitals or tertiary level facilities. The medical staff may include doctors, nurses, dentists, therapists, nutritionists, medical technologists, optometrists, and other allied medical professions. Administrative staff may include finance personnel, clerical and logistical support, as well as janitorial and security services.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). —The DOH and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall formulate the IRR of this Act within ninety (90) days upon its effectivity.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved