

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5711



Introduced by Lone District of Agusan del Norte Representative
HON. DALE B. CORVERA

AN ACT
RENATIONALIZING AGUSAN DEL NORTE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL
LOCATED IN THE HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY OF BUTUAN, PLACING IT
UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Agusan del Norte Provincial Hospital (ADNPH), located in Butuan City, has long stood as a cornerstone of public health service in the Caraga Region. Its evolution from a modest six-bed hospital to a provincial hospital reflects the continuously growing healthcare needs of Agusan del Norte and its neighboring provinces.

The roots of ADNPH trace back to the good deeds of the people of Butuan who started a six-bed hospital temporarily housed in a privately-owned building which they called Butuan Hospital in 1911. At that time, public health services are under the responsibility of a District Health Officer who is employed by the Bureau of Health. In the 1980's, its bed capacity reached 100 and was named Butuan City General Hospital.

But perhaps, the most significant milestone in the history of ADNPH is the enactment of Republic Act No. 7520 on May 21, 1992. The law upgraded the Butuan City General Hospital into the Agusan del Norte Provincial Hospital, increasing its bed capacity from 100 to 125 beds. This act marked the transition of the hospital into a provincial-level facility, placing it under the jurisdiction and supervision of the provincial government of Agusan del Norte despite being located in the City of Butuan – a Highly Urbanized City since February 7, 1985.

Unfortunately, the upgrading of the hospital happened after the enactment of Local Government Code of 1991 (LGC) which took effect on January 1, 1992. Under the LGC, the provision of health services which include hospitals is devolved to the local government units. Thus, healthcare, including the operation of the ADNPH, became one of numerous basic services which shared in the scarce budget of the Provincial LGU.

Through its long history spanning more than a century, ADNPH has always been located at the heart of the Caraga Region – the Highly Urbanized City of Butuan. As healthcare

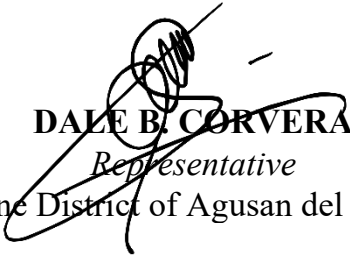
providers cannot morally and legally discriminate on which patients to accept based solely on residence, those living in Butuan have higher chances of availing the medical services offered by ADNPH due to proximity and accessibility, although the operation of ADNPH is being funded by the money from taxpayers of the Province of Agusan del Norte. These data on the origin of patients availing the Out Patient Services of the Hospital are convincing:

Origin	Share in Total		
	2019	2020	2021
Butuan City	63%	70%	72%
Agusan del Norte	35%	28%	26%
Other Neighboring Places	2%	2%	2%

The current setup for the operation of the ADNPH hinders both the delivery of public health care for Agusanons and the development of the Province of Agusan del Norte. Because of the limited funding that can be provided by the LGU, ADNPH finds it challenging to further upgrade and provide tertiary services to Agusanons and to the populace of neighboring provinces. Similarly, funding for the operation of ADNPH earmarked by the LGU could have also been used to fund other equally important basic services.

In further support to this proposed legislation, a dialogue between this representation and the good Secretary of Health Dr. Teodoro “Teddy” J. Herbosa during the budget deliberation of the Department of Health (DOH) before the Appropriations Committee on 04 September 2025 also confirmed the recent policy direction of the DOH to renationalize at least one hospital in areas without existing DOH hospitals. As ADNPH is located in Butuan City and because Butuan remains the center of the Caraga Region, it is only fitting that ADNPH will be renationalized.

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


DALE B. CORVERA
Representative
Lone District of Agusan del Norte

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5711

Introduced by Lone District of Agusan del Norte Representative
HON. DALE B. CORVERA

AN ACT
RENATIONALIZING AGUSAN DEL NORTE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL
LOCATED IN THE HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY OF BUTUAN, PLACING IT
UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Agusan del Norte Provincial Hospital located in the Highly Urbanized City of Butuan, is hereby renationalized and/or returned to the management, supervision, and control of the national government, particularly the Department of Health.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Health shall charge the amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in consultation with the Provincial Government of Agusan del Norte, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. The provisions of Republic Act No. 7520 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed. All other laws, presidential decrees, issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,