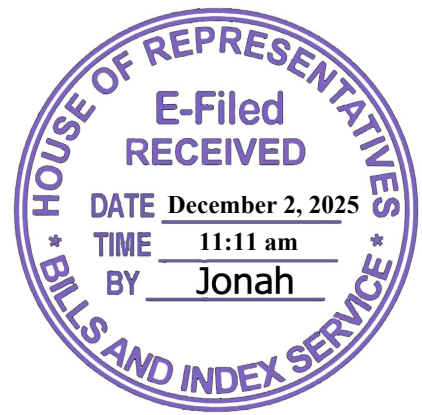


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6543



Introduced by Hon. Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every Filipino deserves not only quality healthcare, but also compassion and dignity in their moments of greatest need. Yet for many of our countrymen—especially those from remote communities, island barangays, and hard-to-reach areas—simply reaching a tertiary government hospital already demands great sacrifice. Families travel long hours, spend what little they have on transportation, and often endure sleepless nights in hospital corridors because they cannot afford a safe place to rest.

These are real stories of struggle that we, as public servants, cannot ignore.

This bill seeks to establish **Dormitory Facilities in all tertiary government hospitals** so that patients and their families will no longer have to choose between seeking medical care and bearing the heavy financial and emotional burden that comes with it. By providing free or subsidized temporary lodging—complete with basic amenities such as clean restrooms, shared or private sleeping areas, and common kitchen or dining spaces—we allow patients to focus on healing, and families to focus on supporting their loved ones.

The measure gives priority to indigent patients and those coming from geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), recognizing that they often carry the heaviest burden in accessing care. The Department of Health (DOH) will set the standards to ensure these dormitories are safe, secure, and well-managed, while hospitals may partner with local governments, NGOs, and private organizations to strengthen services and sustain operations.

This is a simple but meaningful step: to give comfort, relief, and hope to families during one of the most difficult times of their lives.

By passing this measure, we affirm our commitment to make healthcare truly accessible, equitable, and humane. We bring government closer to the people, and we ease the burdens of families who already carry so much.

The immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

HON. JULIENNE "JAM" L. BARONDA
Representative
Lone District, Iloilo City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 6543

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING DORMITORY FACILITIES IN ALL TERTIARY
GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS PROVIDING FOR ITS OPERATION AND
MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “**Hospital Dormitory Act.**”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to uphold every Filipino’s right to accessible, equitable, and quality healthcare. Recognizing the burden faced by patients and their families—especially those coming from remote, rural, and underserved areas—the State shall provide safe, affordable, and adequate temporary lodging facilities in all tertiary government hospitals to support those seeking medical treatment.

SECTION 3. Establishment of Dormitory Facilities. There shall be established **Dormitory Facilities** within or adjacent to **all tertiary government hospitals** nationwide. These facilities shall serve as temporary lodging for:

- Patients scheduled for consultation, diagnostics, outpatient procedures, treatment, or follow-up sessions;
- Immediate family members or caregivers of admitted patients; and
- Patients undergoing long-term or recurring treatment in government hospitals.

These dormitories shall prioritize indigent patients and individuals from geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

SECTION 4. Nature of Services. Dormitory Facilities established under this Act shall provide:

- Free or subsidized lodging, depending on eligibility;
- Shared or private sleeping quarters, subject to availability;
- Basic amenities such as restrooms, common kitchen or dining areas, and resting lounges; and
- Access to patient-assistance or navigation services, when feasible.

The Department of Health (DOH) shall set the standards for structure, sanitation, security, and operations of these dormitories.

SECTION 5. Management and Operation. Dormitory facilities shall be managed and supervised by their respective tertiary government hospitals, under the overall policy direction and technical guidance of the Department of Health (DOH). Hospitals may also collaborate with partners such as Local Government Units (LGUs), accredited non-government organizations, private-sector partners, and other entities authorized by law.

Such partnerships may support facility construction, maintenance, volunteer services, and program enhancement.

SECTION 6. Funding. The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Health under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in consultation with concerned government hospitals, LGUs, and relevant stakeholders, shall formulate and issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act.

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

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,