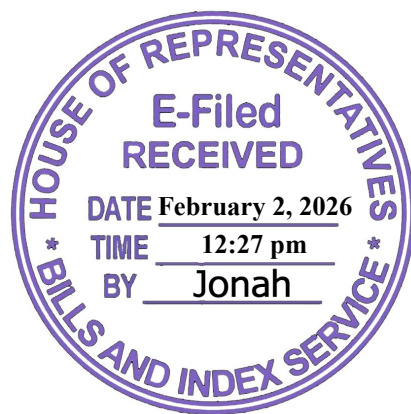




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7527



Introduced by Representative Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE EDUCATION PATHWAY TO A NURSING
PROFESSION, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ASSOCIATE
DEGREE IN NURSING (ADN) PROGRAM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has long been a significant source of healthcare professionals, particularly nurses, sought after by foreign employers and governments. While the country has been a leading supplier of healthcare workers, with around 240,000 Filipino nurses working in OECD countries, recent challenges have exposed gaps in our healthcare workforce.

In response to job market mismatches, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) imposed a moratorium on new nursing programs in 2010, which was only lifted in 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic further strained our healthcare system, leading to a temporary ban on the overseas deployment of Filipino health professionals, imposed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

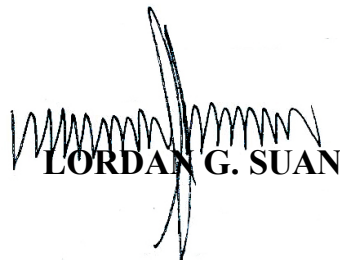
To meet our health care needs and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), we require a more substantial healthcare workforce. However, we currently have a significant shortage of doctors and nurses. Filling this gap will take years, even if all licensed health professionals were to practice in the country. The reality is that many of them work abroad.

This bill has two primary objectives. First, it aims to address the

healthcare workforce shortage by offering a new, shorter pathway for nursing education, making it more accessible to financially challenged students. Shorter but quality education will reduce the waiting time for deployable healthcare workers, ultimately improving healthcare delivery.

Second, this bill creates new employment opportunities for Filipinos, whether they choose to work locally or internationally. The government's responsibility is to ensure that these healthcare professionals are retained in the country to serve their fellow Filipinos, thereby addressing employment needs and supporting families.

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



LORDAN G. SUAR



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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Nursing
2 Education Pathway Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
5 state to protect and promote the health and well-being of the people and provide
6 employment opportunities for all by offering different education pathways for
7 the practice of nursing through quality and relevant nursing education at par
8 with global standards.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Program.** – The 2-year
11 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Program shall be offered by a qualified
12 Higher Education Institution (HEI) with an existing Bachelor of Science in
13 Nursing (BSN) Program.
14

15 **SEC. 4. Accreditation.** – The CHED shall set the policies and standards
16 for the creation of an AND Program curriculum and issue the necessary
17 accreditation for the same.
18

19 **SEC. 5. Inspection.** – The Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing
20 (PRBN) shall prescribe and examine the HEI facilities that offer or seek to offer

1 an AND Program to conform with the quality and standard of nursing education
2 set by the regulating authorities.

3
4 **SEC. 6. *Licensure Examination.*** – The PRBN shall formulate and
5 conduct a licensure examination for graduates of ADN, distinct and separate
6 from the licensure examination for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
7 graduates. It shall issue license certificates to ADN examination passers for the
8 practice of nursing in accordance with Republic Act 8991, otherwise known as
9 the PRC Modernization Act of 2000.

10
11 Provided, that the AND licensure examination may be taken by BSN
12 graduates.

13
14 Provided, further, that BSN graduates who successfully passed the AND
15 licensure but do not possess a BSN license certificate shall perform nursing
16 practice prescribed by the PRBN under this law.

17
18 **SEC. 7. *Regulation on Nursing Practice.*** – The Board of Nursing shall
19 prescribe the guidelines and parameters for the practice of nursing by licensed
20 ADN graduates.

21
22 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days
23 from the promulgation of this Act, the CHED and the PRBN shall formulate
24 the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

25
26 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
27 Invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not hereby affected shall remain in
28 full force and effect.

29
30 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and
31 regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of
32 this Act are repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

33
34 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
35 the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of
36 general circulation.

Approved,