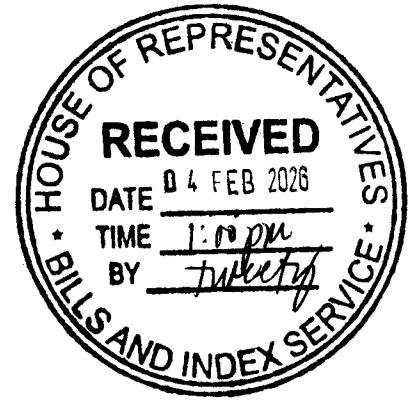




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7608



Introduced by **HON. MA ISABEL L. SAGARBARRIA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

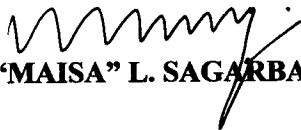
"The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost." - Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution

While the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital (NOPH) has dutifully and faithfully served our fellow Negorenses for decades, the current healthcare landscape of the newly instituted Negros Island Region, with NOPH now hosting the DOH-NIR office and serving as a regional referral and systems model facility, calls for expanded and more specialized capacity to cater to a larger and more diverse patient population across the provinces of Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, and Siquijor. The NOPH currently operates with an authorized bed capacity of two hundred fifty (250). However, in most cases, the actual daily census of patients exceeds the said bed capacity, resulting to overcrowding and overextending of hospital resources. The current congestion presents challenges to maintain the highest quality of care and places increasing financial demands on the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental.

This bill seeks to renationalize the NOPH by upgrading the same into a Specialty Service Hospital under the direct supervision of the Department of Health and renaming it to Negros Oriental Regional Hospital.

The passage of this measure is not only strategic but also timely for several important reasons. First, the renationalization allows transfer of funding responsibility from the Province of Negros Oriental to the National Government, specifically the Department of Health. It provides access to broader fiscal resources for capital outlay, modern medical equipment, and recruitment of specialized medical professionals. Second, by upgrading the hospital into a Specialty Service Hospital, complex medical conditions will be attended to while relieving our constituents from the physical and financial burden of travelling to Metro Manila or Cebu to seek medical attention. Third, increasing its authorized bed capacity from two hundred fifty to five hundred (500) is a necessary response to the growing population of the province and its neighboring provinces - Negros Occidental and Siquijor. With such conversion into a Specialty Service Hospital, the hospital is set to accommodate the influx of indigent patients while still maintain the quality standard of medical service.

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


MA ISABEL "MAISA" L. SAGARBARRIA



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 7608

Introduced by **HON. MA ISABEL L. SAGARBARRIA**

**AN ACT TO CONVERT THE NEGROS ORIENTAL PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL
IN DUMAGUETE CITY, PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, INTO A 500
BED CAPACITY, SPECIALTY SERVICE HOSPITAL TO BE NAMED AS THE
NEGROS ORIENTAL REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Renationalization. The Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital in Dumaguete City, Province of Negros Oriental, is hereby renationalized, renamed as Negros Oriental Regional Hospital, and upgraded into a specialty service hospital under the full ownership, management, administration, supervision, and control of the Department of Health (DOH).

SECTION 2. Increase in Bed Capacity and Upgrade of Service Capability. The authorized bed capacity of the Hospital is hereby increased from two hundred fifty (250) to five (500) beds, and its service capability upgraded to a specialty service hospital. The DOH shall undertake the incremental expansion and upgrading of necessary infrastructure, equipment, facilities, and human resource augmentation in accordance with the Hospital Development Plan approved by the DOH.

SECTION 3. Personnel. All existing personnel of the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital shall not be separated nor suffer any diminution of rank, status, or benefits by reason of renationalization. Personnel matters, including options, assignments, and transition arrangements, shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) subject to existing laws, rules of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and standards of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

SECTION 4. Transfer of Assets and Properties. Use by the DOH of the land on which the Hospital is situated on shall be covered by a usufruct agreement between the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental and the DOH. All other facilities, equipment, buildings, supplies, records, and other assets necessary for the operations of the Hospital shall be transferred without cost to the DOH, subject to auditing and accounting rules of the Commission on Audit (COA) and the provisions of the IRR.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the DOH. Thereafter, the funding requirements for the Hospital shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 6. Transitional Arrangement. Pending full DOH budget inclusion, the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental shall continue its funding support to ensure uninterrupted hospital operations. All existing personnel of the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital shall be retained during this transition period.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The DOH, in consultation with the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental, DBM, CSC, COA, PhilHealth, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the IRR to implement this Act, including detailed provisions on personnel transition, asset transfer, administrative arrangements, and operational integration.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

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

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