



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7734**

Introduced by Representative Maria Angela S. Garcia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to establish a general hospital in the Municipality of Morong, Province of Bataan, to be known as the Morong General Hospital, which shall be placed under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development and to prioritize the health needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, women, and children. Complementing this, Section 15, Article II of the Constitution directs the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to instill health consciousness among them.

In furtherance of these constitutional mandates, the Department of Health adopted the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP) 2022–2040, which serves as the national framework for the rational, equitable, and needs-based development of health facilities nationwide. The PHFDP emphasizes the reduction of travel time to appropriate levels of care, the strengthening of local referral networks, and the prioritization of geographically constrained and underserved areas, including localities experiencing fluctuating population demand due to tourism and economic activity.

At present, the Municipality of Morong does not have a general hospital. Residents requiring hospital care must travel outside the municipality to access public health facilities. The nearest government hospitals include the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City, approximately 30.6 kilometers or 52 minutes away; the Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center in Balanga City, approximately 39.5 kilometers or 59 minutes away; and the Mariveles Mental Wellness and General Hospital, roughly 69 kilometers or 1 hour and 51 minutes away. Higher-level referral hospitals, such as the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital in Pampanga, require travel times of nearly two hours, further limiting timely access to critical care.

These distances and travel times pose serious risks, particularly in cases of medical emergencies, maternal and neonatal care, trauma, and other time-sensitive conditions. The absence of a hospital within Morong results in delayed treatment, increased out-of-pocket expenses, and additional physical and financial burden on patients and their families.

Moreover, the Municipality of Morong is a recognized tourism destination, hosting beach resorts, eco-tourism sites, and seasonal visitor influxes that significantly increase demand for emergency and hospital-based services. The lack of a general hospital raises public health and safety concerns not only for residents but also for tourists, tourism workers, and surrounding communities, underscoring the need for a strategically located government hospital.

The establishment of the Morong General Hospital directly responds to the objectives of the PHFDP 2022–2040 by addressing a clear gap in hospital access, strengthening the provincial referral system, and helping decongest existing hospitals in Bataan and nearby provinces. It will provide accessible, timely, and essential health services to Morong and adjacent areas, thereby advancing the constitutional right to health and the State’s long-term health system development goals.

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


MARIA ANGELA S. GARCIA
Third District, Bataan



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MORONG, PROVINCE OF
BATAAN, A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MORONG
GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There shall be established in the Municipality of Morong,
2 Province of Bataan, a fifty-bed capacity general hospital to be known as the Morong
3 General Hospital, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the
4 Department of Health (DOH).

5 Any future increase in bed capacity and upgrading of health care services
6 and facilities shall be based on the hospital development plan which shall be
7 prepared by the Chief of Hospital, in coordination with the DOH.

8 **SECTION 2.** The amount necessary for the establishment, operation and
9 maintenance of the hospital shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of
10 the year following the enactment of this Act into law and every year thereafter.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health, in consultation and coordination with
12 the local government officials concerned, shall promulgate the rules and regulations
13 necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

14 **SECTION 4.** If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional,
15 the remaining parts or provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

16 **SECTION 5.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations,
17 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

- 1 **SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
2 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.