

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8032



Introduced by ABONO Party-list Representative
HON. ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State is mandated to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to make essential health services available, accessible, and affordable to all. In pursuit of this constitutional duty and in support of the objectives of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, there is an urgent need to strengthen government health facilities, particularly those serving as major referral centers in the regions.

The **Conrado F. Estrella Regional Medical and Trauma Center (CFERMTC)** is currently classified as a **Level 2 General Hospital with 103 Authorized Bed Capacity (ABC)**. It serves a rapidly growing population in Pangasinan and nearby provinces and functions as a critical access point for emergency, trauma, medical, and surgical care for indigent and underserved patients. In recent years, CFERMTC has consistently experienced a **high and sustained bed occupancy rate**, frequently exceeding the standard capacity for a Level 2 hospital. This congestion has resulted in delayed admissions, prolonged emergency room stays, and increased strain on health care workers and hospital resources. The current authorized bed capacity is no longer responsive to the actual service demand of the catchment population.

Moreover, due to limitations in subspecialty services, advanced diagnostics, and tertiary-level clinical capability inherent to its present classification, a significant number of patients are **referred to Level 3 hospitals within and outside the province**. These referrals impose additional financial, social, and logistical burdens on patients and their families, often leading to delayed or foregone treatment. They also contribute to congestion in existing tertiary hospitals in other regions.

Upgrading CFERMTC to a **Level 3 General Hospital with 500 Authorized Bed Capacity** will enable the establishment of specialized clinical departments, expanded diagnostic and therapeutic services, and improved trauma and emergency care. This upgrade will significantly **reduce unnecessary referrals**, improve health outcomes, and ensure that critical services are delivered closer to where patients live.

The proposed measure represents a strategic investment in public health, strengthens regional health systems, supports disaster and emergency preparedness, and advances health equity by expanding access to tertiary-level care for vulnerable populations.

Rep. Robert Raymund M. Estrella

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AN ACT

UPGRADING THE CONRADO F. ESTRELLA REGIONAL MEDICAL AND TRAUMA CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSALES, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN FROM A LEVEL 2 GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH ONE HUNDRED THREE (103) BEDS TO A LEVEL 3 GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Conrado F. Estrella Regional Medical and Trauma Center (CFERMTTC) in the Municipality of Rosales, Province of Pangasinan is hereby upgraded to a Level 3 General Hospital with Five Hundred (500) authorized bed capacity.

SEC. 2. The existing professional healthcare services and facilities of the CFERMTTC shall also be upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to the increase in bed capacity as provided in Section 1 hereof.

SEC. 3. The existing workforce of the CFERMTTC, which includes doctors, nurses, and support personnel, shall be increased correspondingly

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Health, after consultation with the Medical Center Chief of CFERMTTC, and in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management and the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, determine the additional new positions to be created.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. If any provision, section or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other provisions, sections or parts thereof.

SEC. 7. All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect immediately fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,