



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8557

Introduced by Representative John Geesnell “Baba” Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to rename the Governor Celestino Gallares Multi-Specialty Medical Center in the Municipality of Cortes, Province of Bohol, to Bohol Medical Specialty Center.

The Governor Celestino Gallares Multi-Specialty Medical Center in the Municipality of Cortes, Province of Bohol, is one of two separate but related facilities under the Governor Celestino Gallares Multi-Specialty Medical Complex in the Province of Bohol. The other facility, the Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Medical Center, is located in Tagbilaran City.

Both hospitals originated from the Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital, which was established in 1929 as an eight (8)-bed health facility in Tagbilaran City, and originally called the Bohol Provincial Hospital. However, the rising patient population in Tagbilaran City and nearby municipalities necessitated the upgrade and modernization of this health facility in Bohol.

After several upgrades, on June 29, 2022, Republic Act (RA) No.11883, entitled “*An Act Converting the Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in the City of Tagbilaran, Province of Bohol to the Governor Celestino Gallares Multi-Specialty Medical Complex, and Appropriating Funds Therefor,*” was enacted. RA 11883 provided that the GCGMMC shall be comprised of the Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Medical Center located in Tagbilaran City and the Governor Celestino Gallares Multi-Specialty Medical Center located in the Municipality of Cortes. The current GCGMMC in Cortes stands on a 5-

hectare lot in Barangay Malayo, Municipality of Cortes, which was donated to the Department of Health in 2013.

With the enactment of RA11883, the medical facilities and services improved, accessibility and affordability were ensured, and rural health units and hospitals not only in Tagbilaran City but also in nearby provinces were decongested.

However, the identical names of the two hospitals frequently cause confusion and result in referral errors in which patients are directed to the wrong facility, especially during emergency or inter-hospital coordination. Individuals requiring treatment sometimes seek medical attention at the wrong hospital for procedures, consultations, or emergencies. Also, there could be billing and insurance discrepancies leading to misdirected claims or denial due to name ambiguity in health insurance processes, while supplies, equipment, or correspondence are oftentimes sent to the wrong hospital, delaying vital services and transactions.

The identical names may also pose legal and regulatory risks, as regulatory bodies may find it difficult to differentiate between the two health facilities, potentially affecting compliance certifications.

To prevent administrative, legal, and public service complications, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JOHN GEESNELL “Baba” YAP



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AN ACT
RENAMING THE GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MULTI-SPECIALTY MEDICAL CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORTES, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, TO BOHOL MEDICAL SPECIALTY CENTER

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

SECTION 1. The Governor Celestino Gallares Multi-Specialty Medical Center in the Municipality of Cortes, Province of Bohol, is hereby renamed to Bohol Medical Specialty Center.

SEC. 2. Republic Act No. 11883 entitled “*An Act Converting the Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in the City of Tagbilaran, Province of Bohol to the Governor Celestino Gallares Multi-Specialty Medical Complex, and Appropriating Funds Therefor,*” is hereby amended accordingly.

All other laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,