

Congress of the Philippines]
TWENTIETH CONGRESS]
First Regular Session]

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill. No. 8644



BY REPRESENTATIVE SUN J. SHIMURA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Consistent with this policy, the government continues to pursue reforms aimed at strengthening health systems, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

The Municipality of Madridejos, located on Bantayan Island in the Province of Cebu, is part of an island cluster with a combined population of over 140,000 residents. As an island municipality separated from mainland Cebu by sea, Madridejos faces structural barriers in accessing hospital-based care, especially during medical emergencies and adverse weather disturbances. While rural health units and barangay health stations provide primary outpatient services, there remains no adequate Department of Health-managed inpatient facility within immediate reach of the municipality's residents.

Under Department of Health hospital licensure standards, a Level I hospital is mandated to provide essential clinical services including:

- 24-hour emergency services;
- General medical and pediatric care;
- Maternal and newborn services, including basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC);
- Minor surgical procedures;
- Isolation facilities for infectious diseases;
- Clinical laboratory and radiologic services; and

- Pharmacy services with adequate supply chain systems.

The absence of such a facility in Madridejos significantly affects health outcomes in time-sensitive conditions such as obstetric emergencies, trauma, acute infections, cardiovascular events, and pediatric complications. Stabilization of patients prior to referral is often delayed due to limited inpatient capability. Data from rural and island health systems nationwide indicate that travel time exceeding one to two hours during emergencies substantially increases preventable morbidity and mortality, particularly among pregnant women, newborns, elderly patients, and individuals with chronic conditions.

Furthermore, Bantayan Island is periodically exposed to typhoons and severe weather events, which disrupt sea transport and isolate communities from mainland referral hospitals. The lack of a local Level I hospital undermines disaster preparedness and emergency response capacity, especially during mass casualty incidents and outbreaks of communicable diseases.

The establishment of a Department of Health–managed Level I hospital in Madridejos will strengthen the province-wide service delivery network by:

1. Providing organized inpatient and emergency care at the primary hospital level;
2. Reducing unnecessary referrals and decongesting higher-level hospitals in mainland Cebu;
3. Enhancing referral coordination within Bantayan Island’s health system;
4. Improving maternal, neonatal, and child health indicators;
5. Strengthening infectious disease surveillance and isolation capacity; and
6. Increasing health system resilience in disaster-prone settings.
- 7.

This measure is aligned with Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act, which mandates equitable access to quality and affordable health services and calls for the rational distribution of health facilities based on population need and geographic accessibility. Establishing a Level I hospital in Madridejos operationalizes the principles of service delivery network integration and financial risk protection under the Universal Health Care framework.

A DOH-managed Level I hospital represents a strategic, scalable, and sustainable intervention that addresses immediate healthcare gaps while laying the groundwork for future capacity expansion as population and service demand increase.

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



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A LEVEL ONE (1) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)
HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MADRIDEJOS, BANTAYAN ISLAND,
PROVINCE OF CEBU, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Establishment of Madridejos General Hospital, Madridejos, Bantayan Island, Cebu.”

There is hereby established, under the supervision and control of the Department of Health (DOH), a Level One (1) government hospital in the Municipality of Madridejos, Bantayan Island, Province of Cebu, to be known as the Madridejos General Hospital, hereinafter referred to as the Hospital.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to ensure access to quality and affordable health care service, especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. Toward this end, the State shall establish and maintain adequate health facilities in the island and rural communities, including the Municipality of Madridejos in the Island of Bantayan, Cebu, to improve the delivery of essential medical services and reduce preventable morbidity and mortality.

SECTION 3. Provision of Hospital Site and Building by the Local Government Unit. – The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Madridejos shall provide, free of charge, the land and hospital building to be used for the establishment and operation of the Hospital. The site shall be strategically located, compliant with Department of Health standards, and suitable for a Level One (1) hospital facility.

The LGU shall ensure that the building conforms to national building codes, health facility standards, and other relevant laws and regulations. Ownership of the land shall remain with the LGU, while the hospital facility shall be used exclusively for public health purposes under the administration and supervision of the Department of Health.

SECTION 4. Hospital Services and Capacity. – The Hospital operate as a Level One (1) hospital in accordance with the standards and licensing requirements of the Department of Health. It shall provide basic hospital services, including but not limited to:

- a) General medicine
- b) Basic emergency care
- c) Maternal and child health services
- d) Normal obstetrical and pediatric services
- e) Minor surgical procedures
- f) Basic diagnostic, laboratory, and radiologic services

The initial bed capacity shall be determined by the Department of Health, based on the healthcare needs of the Municipality of Madridejos and the neighboring municipalities of Bantayan Island.

SECTION 5. Future Expansion and Upgrading – Upon determination by the Department of Health (DOH) of increased healthcare demand, population growth, epidemiological trends, or other public health considerations in the Municipality of Madridejos and the neighboring areas of Bantayan Island, the Madridejos Level One Hospital may be expanded or upgraded to a higher level of hospital classification, subject to compliance with existing laws, rules, and regulations governing hospital licensing and standards.

For this purpose, the Department of Health, in coordination with the Local Government Unit of Madridejos, may:

- a) Increase the authorized bed capacity of the Hospital;
- b) Expand physical facilities and infrastructure;
- c) Upgrade medical equipment and diagnostic capabilities;
- d) Create additional plantilla positions for medical, allied medical, and support personnel; and
- e) Introduce specialized services as may be necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the community.

The funding requirements for such expansion or upgrading shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 6. Administration and Supervision. – The Hospital shall be administered and operated by the Department of Health. The DOH shall establish the appropriate organizational structure, staffing pattern, and operational policies necessary for the efficient delivery of health services.

SECTION 7. Personnel. – The medical, allied medical, administrative, and support personnel of the Hospital shall be appointed by the Department of Health in accordance with existing - civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. – The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The Department of Health may include in its program the funding requirements for equipment, personnel services, maintenance and other operating expenses, and other necessary expenditures for the operation of the Hospital.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with the LGU of Madridejos, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.