

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8964



Introduced by REP. JESUS ANGEL MANUEL “BONG” C. SUNTAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 1340, enacted in 1955, governs the establishment and statutory framework of the National Children’s Hospital. While the institution has since evolved in function, patient load, and clinical complexity, its enabling law has not kept pace with present-day pediatric health demands, referral patterns, and service standards.

Over the decades, the National Children’s Hospital has effectively operated beyond the scope of a basic specialty hospital and now functions in substance as a tertiary pediatric referral institution handling complex, multidisciplinary, and subspecialty cases. Patient congestion, long waiting times, and high bed occupancy rates indicate a persistent capacity gap relative to national pediatric healthcare needs.

This measure amends Republic Act No. 1340 to formally rename the institution as the **National Children’s Hospital and Medical Center**, thereby aligning its statutory identity with its actual and intended role as a tertiary pediatric specialty and training center. The designation “Medical Center” reflects expanded mandates in advanced clinical care, residency and fellowship training, research, and nationwide pediatric referral support.

The bill further increases the authorized bed capacity to **four hundred (400)** in order to address sustained patient demand, reduce overcrowding, and enable the phased expansion of intensive care, neonatal, oncology, surgical, and other high-dependency pediatric services. The capacity increase is paired with authority for phased implementation to ensure fiscal and operational prudence.

The proposed amendments preserve the original public service mandate of the hospital while modernizing its legal framework, institutional classification, and service scale. Strengthening pediatric referral infrastructure is a direct investment in child health outcomes, equity in access to specialized care, and long-term human capital development.

1 In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.
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REP. JESUS "BONG" C. SUNTAY

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11 Introduced by REP. JESUS MANUEL BONG SUNTAY
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14 **AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1340, ENTITLED “AN ACT**
15 **AMENDING SECTIONS ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR AND FIVE OF**
16 **REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE**
17 **PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL**
18 **CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE**
19 **PURPOSE,” RENAMING THE NATIONAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL AS**
20 **THE NATIONAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER AND**
21 **INCREASING ITS AUTHORIZED BED CAPACITY TO FOUR HUNDRED**
22 **(400)**

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24 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
25 Congress assembled:
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28 **SECTION 1. Amendment of Section 1 of Republic Act No. 1340.** Section 1 of
29 Republic Act No. 1340 is hereby amended to read as follows:
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31 **“SECTION 1. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED UNDER THE**
32 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH THE NATIONAL CHILDREN’S**
33 **HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER, HEREINAFTER**
34 **REFERRED TO AS THE NCHMC, WHICH SHALL BE A TERTIARY**
35 **PEDIATRIC SPECIALTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL**
36 **CENTER UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF A**
37 **CHIEF OF HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL CENTER DIRECTOR, AS THE**
38 **CASE MAY BE, POSSESSING THE QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED**
39 **BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UNDER EXISTING LAWS,**
40 **RULES, AND REGULATIONS.**

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42 **THE NCHMC SHALL HAVE ALL THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF**
43 **A GOVERNMENT MEDICAL CENTER AND SHALL SERVE AS A**
44 **NATIONAL REFERRAL CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC CARE, TRAINING,**
45 **AND RESEARCH.”**
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1 **SEC. 2. Authorized Bed Capacity.** A new paragraph is hereby inserted in Section
2 1 of Republic Act No. 1340, as amended, to read as follows:

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4 “THE AUTHORIZED BED CAPACITY OF THE NATIONAL
5 CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER IS HEREBY
6 INCREASED TO FOUR HUNDRED (400) BEDS. THE DEPARTMENT
7 OF HEALTH SHALL IMPLEMENT THE BED CAPACITY INCREASE IN
8 PHASES, CONSISTENT WITH SERVICE DEMAND, STAFFING
9 STANDARDS, AND AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS.”

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11 **SEC. 3.** All provisions of Republic Act No. 1340 and other laws, executive issuances,
12 rules, and regulations referring to the National Children’s Hospital are hereby
13 amended to read as National Children’s Hospital and Medical Center.

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15 **SEC. 4.** Consistent with its designation as a medical center, the National Children’s
16 Hospital and Medical Center shall be upgraded to support expanded tertiary and
17 subspecialty pediatric services, training programs, and research functions, and the
18 Department of Health is hereby authorized to create additional plantilla positions and
19 upgrade existing ones as may be necessary.

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21 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
22 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the budget of
23 the Department of Health.

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25 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the
26 remainder shall not be affected.

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28 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
29 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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31 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in
32 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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34 Approved,