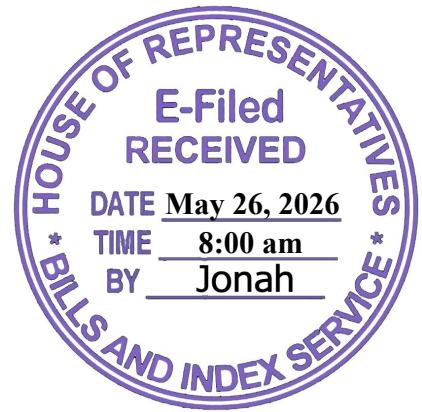


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **9416**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MARK O. COJUANGCO**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUGALLON, PROVINCE OF
PANGASINAN, A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL WITH A CAPACITY OF AT
LEAST ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BUGALLON
MEDICAL CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed legislative measure seeks to establish a Level II, Department of Health (DOH)-retained General Hospital with a minimum 100-bed capacity to be strategically located in Barangay Poblacion, Bugallon, Pangasinan. This initiative directly addresses the critical healthcare facility gap in the Second District of Pangasinan, driven by an expanding population and a severe shortage of public tertiary healthcare institutions in the area.

The proposed location in Bugallon is central and highly accessible, situated along the Romulo Highway. This ensures rapid transit and reduced travel times from any point within the Second District. Crucially, the primary catchment area of this facility extends across the entirety of the First and Second Districts, with a maximum potential catchment capable of serving the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Districts of Pangasinan. By significantly reducing travel time to a fully equipped hospital, this measure directly mitigates the risks of preventable mortality and morbidity caused by delayed medical intervention.

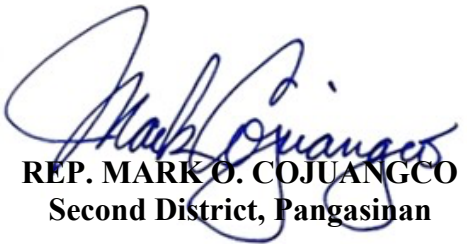
As the first public Level II hospital in the Second District, this facility will provide vital diagnostic, therapeutic, and emergency medical services. Its establishment will significantly decongest the over-extended bed capacities of surrounding Level I facilities, specifically the Lingayen District Hospital (LDH) and the Mangatarem District Hospital (MDH). Furthermore, it will optimize the distribution of the patient load of the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital (PPH) in Barangay Bolingit, San Carlos City, thereby alleviating the severe burden currently carried by the region's primary Level III facility, the Region I Medical Center.

The Second District of Pangasinan is home to approximately 518,738 residents, representing roughly 16% of the province's total population. Applying a conservative, standard bed-capacity-to-population ratio of 1:1,000 residents, the district's existing public healthcare infrastructure can only adequately accommodate around 130,000 people. A rigorous bed capacity gap analysis reveals a critical deficit of at least 389 beds within the district. By establishing a Level II general hospital with a 100-bed capacity, this legislation will effectively close the district's public bed capacity gap by 25.71%.

The urgency of this measure is further underscored by alarming healthcare data: the bed occupancy rate at the Lingayen District Hospital currently stands at an overwhelming 182%, while the Mangatarem District Hospital operates at an unsustainable 212.73%. These figures drastically exceed the internationally and nationally accepted optimum bed occupancy rate of 60% to 85%. Presently, the only two existing Level II general hospitals in the district are privately owned, leaving the Second District without a single DOH-managed general hospital to serve its underprivileged constituents.

Finally, this bill directly complements Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, fulfilling its mandate to provide equitable access to quality and comprehensive healthcare services for all Filipinos. The law explicitly dictates that all government hospitals must allocate no less than ninety percent (90%) of their bed capacity to basic or ward accommodations, ensuring that the poor and marginalized are prioritized.

In view of the pressing need to safeguard the health, well-being, and lives of the people of Pangasinan, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. MARK O. COJUANGCO
Second District, Pangasinan

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in the Municipality of Bugallon, Province of Pangasinan, a Level II General Hospital with a capacity of at least One Hundred (100) beds, to be known as the Bugallon Medical Center, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 2. Any future increase in bed capacity, healthcare facilities, service capability, and human resource complement shall be based on the hospital development plan that shall be prepared by the DOH.

SEC. 3. 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. 4. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, consistent with the hospital development plan.

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

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

Approved,