

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9734**



Introduced by **REP. IRENE G. LABADLABAD**
2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to make essential healthcare services accessible to all. In pursuit of this policy, it is imperative that government health facilities are responsive to the needs of their respective communities, particularly in fast-growing and underserved areas.

The Sindangan District Hospital in the Municipality of Sindangan, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, urgently requires upgrading, considering its current **infirmarium-level** capacity which is inadequate to meet the increasing healthcare demands of the population. Despite serving as a primary referral facility for nearby municipalities, the hospital remains limited in terms of bed capacity, medical equipment, and specialized services.

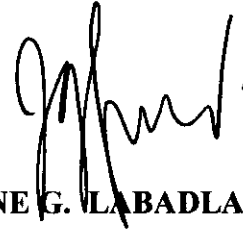
Based on the 2024 Census, Sindangan has a population of 104,514. Sindangan is recognized as the largest municipality in the province and is among the fastest-growing in terms of population, economic activity, and service demand. This rapid growth has placed significant pressure on existing health infrastructure, resulting in overcrowding, insufficient medical services, and frequent referrals to distant tertiary hospitals. Such conditions pose serious risks to timely and effective healthcare delivery.

This bill therefore seeks to upgrade Sindangan District hospital into Level II hospital under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health. Upgrading the Sindangan District Hospital into a Level II hospital will significantly enhance its ability to deliver comprehensive healthcare services. As a Level II facility, it will be equipped with improved bed capacity, modern diagnostic equipment, and expanded clinical services, including surgical and intensive care capabilities. This will not only address the current

limitations of the facility but also ensure that it can adequately serve the present and future healthcare needs.

Furthermore, placing the hospital under the supervision and control of the Department of Health will ensure adherence to national standards, strengthen institutional capacity, and facilitate the allocation of necessary resources, including funding, modern equipment and additional healthcare personnel.

For the above reasons, urgent approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irene G. Labadlabad', with a stylized, cursive script.

IRENE G. LABADLABAD

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9734**

Introduced by **REP. IRENE G. LABADLABAD**
2ND District, Zamboanga del Norte

AN ACT

UPGRADING THE SINDANGAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SINDANGAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE INTO A LEVEL II HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS SINDANGAN MEDICAL CENTER, UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL, SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Sindangan District Hospital in the Municipality of Sindangan, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, is hereby upgraded into a Level II hospital to be known as Sindangan Medical Center, which shall be under the direct supervision, control and management of the Department of Health (DOH).

SECTION 2. The increase in bed capacity of the Sindangan Medical Center shall be consistent with the hospital development plan.

SECTION 3. The existing professional health care services and facilities of the Sindangan Medical Center are also hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to its upgrading as Level II hospital and the increase in bed capacity as provided for in Sections 1 and 2 hereof.

SECTION 4. The existing workforce of the Sindangan Medical Center, which includes doctors, nurses, and support personnel, shall be increased correspondingly.

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

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

SECTION 6. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

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

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

Approved,