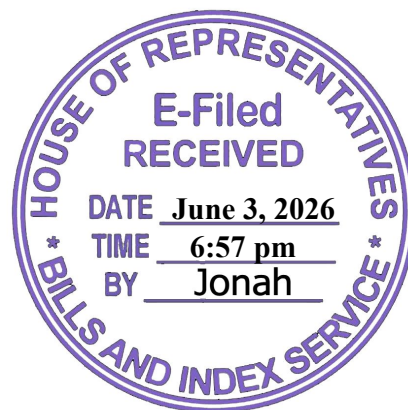


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. 9788



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Introduced by Representatives **JEFFREY SORIANO, JOCELYN P. TULFO, and  
RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

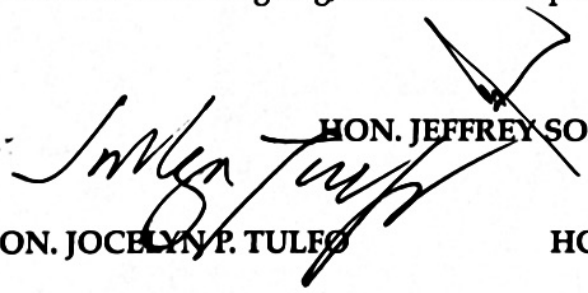
This bill seeks to expand the offering of medical and allied health degree programs in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). It addresses the persistent shortage, maldistribution, and migration of health professionals that continue to challenge the Philippine healthcare system.

Despite ongoing reforms, many rural and geographically isolated areas remain underserved, with limited access to doctors, nurses, dentists and other essential health workers. As a result, patients face the burden of delayed care, overcrowded facilities, and poorer health outcomes.

Recognizing the vital role of SUCs in nation-building, the bill encourages broadening access to these programs and provides institutional support through faculty development, infrastructure enhancement, and academic partnerships to ensure quality education and sustainable program delivery. Central to this measure is the adoption of a strategic and needs-based approach to health workforce development by aligning the expansion of these programs with national and regional personnel needs. These interventions will help equip future health professionals with the competencies needed to respond to the country's evolving health needs.

This proposed measure ultimately promotes equitable access to health education and long-term improvements in healthcare delivery across the regions, helping address systemic workforce shortages and inequities in health service access. At a time when the Philippine healthcare system continues to face structural challenges, this measure offers a grounded, timely, and necessary response.

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

  
HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO

  
HON. JEFFREY SORIANO

  
HON. RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO

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**Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO, JOCELYN P. TULFO,  
and RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

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**AN ACT**  
**EXPANDING THE OFFERING OF MEDICAL AND ALLIED HEALTH COURSES**  
**IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO STRENGTHEN THE**  
**NATIONAL HEALTH WORKFORCE**

*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 “*Health Courses Expansion Act*”.

SEC. 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 the availability of competent health professionals across the country. Towards this end, the State shall strengthen and expand access to quality medical and allied health education, especially in underserved and geographically isolated areas, by expanding the capacity of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).

SEC. 3. *Expansion of Medical and Allied Health Programs in SUCs.* – Qualified SUCs, subject to evaluation and approval by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), are hereby encouraged to establish and offer degree programs in the following fields:

a. B  
achelor of Science in Nursing;

b. B  
achelor of Science in Medical Technology;

c. B  
achelor of Science in Dentistry;

d. B  
achelor of Science in Pharmacy; and

e. O  
ther relevant allied health programs.

In approving such programs, CHED shall ensure that SUCs meet the minimum standards for faculty qualifications, facilities, laboratories, and clinical training requirements.

SEC. 4. *Health Workforce Needs Assessment.* – CHED, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and other relevant agencies, shall conduct periodic assessments of national and regional health workforce needs to guide the strategic expansion of medical and allied health programs in SUCs, with priority given to underserved and health workforce-deficient areas.

SEC. 5. *Institutional Support and Capacity Building.* – CHED, DOH, and other concerned agencies shall provide support through:

a.  
faculty development and training programs;

b. i  
nfrastructure and laboratory development assistance;

c. a  
cademic and institutional partnerships; and

d. r  
ecognition or incentive programs for SUCs that significantly contribute to the development of the health workforce, particularly in underserved regions.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Agencies.* – CHED shall serve as the lead implementing agency of this Act. CHED shall coordinate with the DOH, SUCs, and other relevant government agencies to ensure the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of CHED and concerned SUCs. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, CHED, in coordination with the DOH, SUCs, and other relevant

agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision or part of the Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions and parts hereof, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*