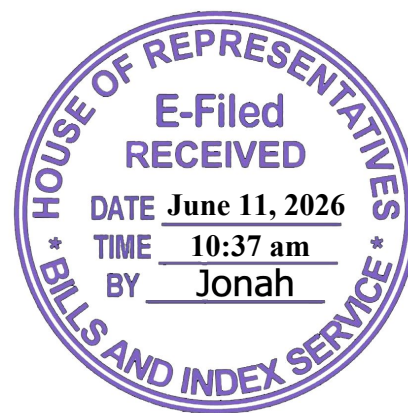


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9855



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The state of oral health in the Philippines presents a silent but pervasive public health crisis. Decades of data indicate that dental caries (tooth decay) and periodontal diseases affect the vast majority of Filipinos. According to recent epidemiological assessments, roughly 70% to 80% of Filipinos suffer from dental cavities, while a significant portion of our school-aged children experience chronic oral discomfort that directly impacts their school attendance, nutrition, and overall development.

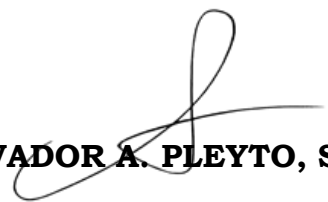
Republic Act No. 1082, enacted in 1954, was a landmark piece of legislation that sought to strengthen dental health services in rural areas by creating rural health units and deploying dental infrastructure. While RA 1082 laid the groundwork for public health dentistry, its framework is now over seventy years old. It predates modern advancements in preventive dentistry, teledentistry, biometric health tracking, and minimally invasive oral care technologies.

Furthermore, our current public healthcare system remains heavily reactive—focusing on extractions and emergency interventions rather than proactive preservation. For marginalized communities, visual and physical access to a dentist remains a luxury due to geographical isolation and economic barriers.

This Bill, aptly titled the "National Initiative for Innovative Oral Health Care Act," seeks to fundamentally overhaul and modernize our national oral health strategy. It amends and strengthens the spirit of RA 1082 by integrating cutting-edge innovation into the public dental sector.

By modernizing our infrastructure and shifting our philosophy from "extraction to preservation," this measure will significantly reduce the economic and physical burden of oral diseases on the Filipino workforce and youth.

In view of the foregoing urgent public health considerations, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9855

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE FOR INNOVATIVE ORAL HEALTH CARE, THEREBY AMPLIFYING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1082, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT STRENGTHENING HEALTH AND DENTAL SERVICES IN THE RURAL AREAS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "National Initiative for Innovative Oral Health Care Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Recognizing oral health is an inseparable component of overall physical well-being, systemic health, and economic productivity, the State shall implement a comprehensive, technology-driven, and preventive-oriented national oral health care framework.

The State shall actively upgrade existing public dental health structures, expand access to underserved areas, and foster innovation in dental technologies and delivery systems.

SEC. 3. *Amplifying and Reinforcing Republic Act No. 1082* – This Act hereby reinforces, modernizes, and expands the mandate of Republic Act No. 1082 by shifting the national public health dental paradigm from purely reactive and extraction-based services to an innovation-driven, preventive, and highly accessible care model integrated into the Universal Health Care framework.

SEC. 4. *The Government Initiative* – The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Local Government Units (LGU), shall formulate and execute the National Initiative for an Innovative Oral Health Care Program, which shall include the following components:

- Innovative Dental Mobile Fleet – the DOH shall procure and deploy specialized, solar-powered mobile dental vans to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). These units shall be equipped with modern diagnostic tools, digital intraoral cameras, and equipment capable of delivering minimally invasive preventive treatments.
- Teledentistry and Digital Triaging Network – The DOH shall establish a national public teledentistry platform within the existing eHealth framework. Rural Health Units (RHUs) and Barangay Health Stations (BHS) shall be equipped with digital imaging devices to allow community health workers to transmit oral health data to regional centers for expert diagnosis and triaging.
- National Preventive Supply Guarantee – Every LGU, supported by the DOH, shall ensure the regular, subsidized distribution of oral hygiene kits - consisting of high-quality fluoridated toothpaste, age-appropriate toothbrushes, and educational materials- to all public day-care centers, elementary schools, and pregnant women enrolled in public health programs.
- Advanced Dental Workforce Training – The DOH, in partnership with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and accredited dental associations, shall mandate and fund continuous education for public health dentists and public health workers, focusing on preventive dentistry, community oral health metrics, and modern clinical technologies.w

SEC. 5. *Oral Health Innovation and Research Fund.* – There is hereby established an Oral Health Innovation and Research Fund under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD). This fund shall be exclusively utilized to give grants to local universities, research institutions, and Filipino inventors developing affordable, localized dental materials, eco-friendly oral care products, and data-driven epidemiological tracking software.

SEC. 6. *Institutional Arrangements.* –

- The DOH shall serve as the lead implementing agency, establishing a specialized program management office under its Disease Prevention and Control Bureau.
- The Department of Education (DepED) shall integrate modern oral self-care routines into the daily curriculum of elementary school students and oversee the bi-annual topical fluoride application program in public schools.
- LGUs shall allocate local counterpart sources, including personnel and logistical support, to sustain the operations of the Innovative Mobile Dental fleet within their respective jurisdictions.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations* – The amount necessary to cover the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). A minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the total health enhancement allocations from sin taxes and relevant medical care revenues shall be earmarked specifically for the procurement of dental innovations and mobile fleets authorized under this Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Secretary of the DOST, the Secretary of DepEd, the Philippine Dental Association (PDA), and representatives from local government leagues, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,