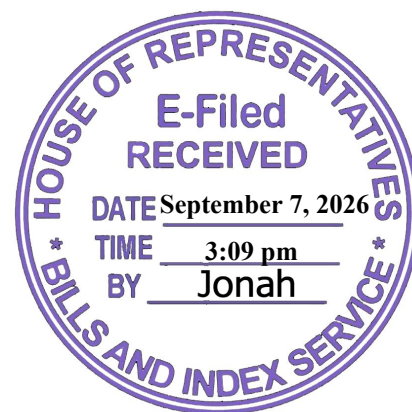


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 11145



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
UPGRADING THE SALARY SCALES OR LEVELS OF PUBLIC DENTISTS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dental health experts often say that the mouth is the gateway to our overall health. Taking care of our dental health can protect our bodies from a variety of health problems. However, the public’s awareness of the importance of dental health care and services remains low, in part due to the scarcity of dentists working in the public sector.

The country’s dentists-to-patients ratio is currently at 1:53,000, and only very few licensed dentists intend to work in the government due to its meager salary and benefits compared to private dental practitioners.

To encourage more dentists to render public service in government and mainstream the importance of dental health care and services, this bill seeks to upgrade the salary grades of all public dentists in recognition of their essential role in maintaining and promoting the oral health of the people.

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


REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 “*Salary Increase for Public Dentists Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” Under Section 2 of Republic Act 7305, or the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, it is the declared policy of the State to “instill health consciousness among our people to effectively carry out the health programs and projects of the government essential for the growth and health of the nation.”¹ Towards this end, the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers aims to, among others, “promote and improve the social and economic well-being of the health workers, their living and working conditions and terms of employment.”²

Pursuant to these, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the important role played by government dentists in maintaining and promoting the oral health of the people. Thus, the government must ensure that these government dentists are properly compensated and their working and living conditions are continuously improved.

¹ Section 2, Republic Act 7305, Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, 26 March 1992.

² NMEDs. 2011.

SECTION 3. Coverage. — This Act shall cover all dentists, regardless of employment status, in all public health institutions, whether nationally or locally funded, as well as those assigned in or working for national government agencies (NGAs), including state universities and colleges (SUCs), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), and local government units (LGUs).

SECTION 4. Upgraded Salary Scales or Levels. — The following salary scales or levels of the Dentist position in the government are hereby upgraded upon the effectivity of this Act:

Position Title	Old Salary Grade	New Salary Grade
Dentist I	14	17
Dentist II	17	20
Dentist III	20	23
Dentist IV	23	25
Dentist V	24	27
Dentist VI	26	29
Dentist VII	28	30

SECTION 5. Appropriation. — The Government shall appropriate such amount as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act. Initial funds required for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the savings of the Executive Branch of the government and other possible sources that may be determined by the Office of the President. The subsequent funds needed shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the appropriate government office or agency in coordination with all the stakeholders and covered establishments and institutions.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. — All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, decrees, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in the two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,