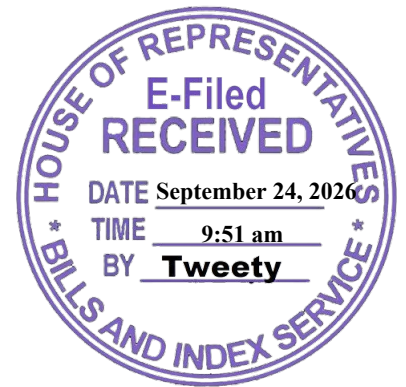


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11468



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

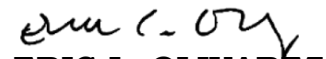
Oral health is an essential component of overall health and well-being. Access to basic dental services, however, remains a concern, particularly in rural and underserved communities where geographic, financial, and other barriers may limit access to regular dental care.

The Rural Health Unit serves as an important primary health care facility within local communities. Integrating basic dental services into the Rural Health Unit will help bring preventive, promotive, and appropriate primary dental care closer to the people and facilitate the early detection and treatment of oral health conditions.

This measure seeks to establish a Dental Unit in every Rural Health Unit, with at least one (1) public health dentist and one (1) trained dental aide, and to provide the Department of Health with the responsibility to establish appropriate standards, guidelines, and technical assistance for their operation.

By strengthening dental services at the primary health care level, this Act will promote preventive oral health care, encourage early intervention, improve access to essential dental services, and strengthen the delivery of comprehensive primary health care in local communities.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11468

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**“AN ACT
CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT
AS PART OF THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE APPROACH IN
THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR”**

*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 “*Local Dental Health Unit Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to pursue the Primary Health Care Approach in the delivery of health services, undertake human resource development for this purpose, and promote preventive and basic dental health care in rural and underserved areas as part of the Primary Health Care strategy.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. -

- a) “*Rural Health Unit*” or “*Main Health Center*” refers to a primary health care facility operated or maintained by a local government unit for the delivery of basic preventive, promotive, and curative health services;
- b) “*Dental Unit*” refers to the dental service component of a Rural Health Unit, composed of at least one (1) public health dentist and one (1) trained dental aide; and
- c) “*Dental Aide*” refers to a Barangay Health Worker or other appropriately trained health worker designated to assist the public health dentist, subject to the scope of training and applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 4. Creation of a Dental Unit in every Rural Health Unit. - As part of the Primary Health Care Approach, there is hereby created a Dental Unit in every Rural Health Unit operated or maintained by a local government unit.

Each Dental Unit shall have at least one (1) public health dentist and one (1) trained dental aide, subject to applicable civil service, staffing, and budgetary rules and regulations.

The Department of Health (DOH) shall provide the necessary standards, guidelines, and technical assistance for the establishment and operation of the Dental Units.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DOH, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government and local government units, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months from its effectivity.

SECTION 6. Funding. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the DOH, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and the appropriate appropriations of the concerned local government units, as applicable.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,