

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 SEP 11 P 6 :30

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1646

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The fundamental right of our people to health is enshrined in our 1987 Philippine Constitution. Thus, Section 15, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the policy of the state to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Furthermore, Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states, thus:

Section 11. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

The need to provide accessible primary health care services to the people is fundamental towards ensuring the health empowerment of the people, especially those in far-flung communities who have no convenient access to health care providers. It is for this reason that this bill is being proposed by mandating that at least one (1) health worker be provided in every barangay in the country.

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

  
MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY  
Senator

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1 AN ACT MAKING HEALTH CARE SERVICES ACCESSIBLE BY MANDATING THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE (1) HEALTH WORKER  
3 OR SUCH OTHER NECESSARY HEALTH PERSONNEL IN EVERY BARANGAY,  
4 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES  
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*  
7 *assembled:*  
8

9 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Accessible Rural Health Care Act  
10 of 2013."  
11

12 **SECTION 2.** *Statement of Policy.* The state shall promote the right to health of the people  
13 and to provide conditions for health empowerment and instill health consciousness among the  
14 people. To ensure this, the state shall make available and accessible to all people, particularly  
15 those in far flung communities, primary health care services.  
16

17 **SECTION 3.** *Provision of Health Workers and Other Health Personnel.* There shall be in  
18 every barangay throughout the country at least one (1) health worker. The Secretary of the  
19 DOH may also designate such other health personnel in the barangay, in addition to the  
20 health worker, who shall work efficiently with the community.  
21

22 The health worker or such other health personnel shall hold office at a designated health  
23 station within the barangay or at the barangay health center, if any. "Health worker" means a  
24 citizen of the Philippines who is a licensed medical practitioner. "Health personnel" means  
25 any person who shall possess the necessary professional qualifications to work efficiently to  
26 provide primary health care services in the barangay.  
27

28 **SECTION 4.** *Absence of Availability of Health Worker.* In the absence of an available  
29 health worker, the Secretary of the DOH may:  
30

- 31 1. Designate such other health personnel in the barangay; or
- 32 2. Call upon private volunteers who are responsible members of the community to provide  
33 medical services for the barangay.  
34

35 **SECTION 5.** *Programs and Services.* The barangay health worker and/or health personnel  
36 shall offer primary health care services to member of the community free of charge. They  
37 shall also provide such other medical services and enact programs that will promote the  
38 health of the people within the community pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by  
39 the DOH.

1 **SECTION 6.** *Coordination with Barangay Health Volunteers.* Such health worker or health  
2 personnel shall work closely with and coordinate with barangay "Health Volunteers"  
3 accredited pursuant to Republic Act No. 7883, otherwise known as the Barangay Health  
4 Worker's Benefit and Incentives Act of 1995."

5  
6 **SECTION 7.** *Authority to Accept Donations.* The DOH, through the Secretary of  
7 Department, may accept donations and grants, both domestic and foreign, for purposes of  
8 implementing the provisions of this Act. Such donations and grants shall be subject to  
9 pertinent accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

10  
11 **SECTION 8.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The DOH, in consultation with the  
12 Department of Interior and Local Government and other relevant government agencies,  
13 leagues of local government officials, non-governmental organizations, shall promulgate the  
14 Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act within ninety (90) calendar days from the  
15 approval hereof.

16  
17 **SECTION 9.** *Appropriation.* The amount of One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos  
18 (₱150,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act.  
19 Thereafter, the DOH shall include the amounts necessary for the implementation of this Act  
20 in its annual budgets.

21  
22 **SECTION 10.** *Separability Clause.* If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void  
23 and unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by  
24 such declaration.

25  
26 **SECTION 11.** *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other  
27 issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
28 modified accordingly.

29  
30 **SECTION 12.** *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
31 complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

32  
33 Approved,