

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

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SENATE

S.B. N^o. 889

Introduced by Sen. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Touted as the "modern heroes" of the Philippine economy overseas contract workers render services abroad and send financial support back to our country to promote the economic welfare of their families. As a consequence, they contribute to the general economic performance of the country.

Thus we cannot take for granted the indispensable role played by our modern heroes. As such, aside from their skills and experiences, an important capital that they have to possess is their health. Long hours of work, different climate and environment coupled by emotional stress raise the risk of weakness and ill health.

The State has the responsibility to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, to afford full protection to labor both local and overseas, and to protect the interest and promote the well-being of its citizens. This bill is geared towards the realization of these endeavors; hence its immediate approval is earnest sought.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by SENATOR JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS
(OCWs) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL ACT OF 2004."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. Further, the State shall protect the interest and promote the well-being of Filipino overseas workers including their families and dependents through the provision of social and welfare services.

SECTION 3. Creation of Special Hospital. To carry out the above policy, a migrant workers' hospital to be named as the MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL is hereby created under the supervision and control of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

SECTION 4. Objectives. To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality health care, Migrant Workers Hospital shall:

- a) Provide for a comprehensive/total health care services to all migrant workers who are OWWA contributors and their legal dependents;

- b) Complement the existing package of services under the Medical Care Program so as to include preventive, promotive, diagnostic, curative and rehabilitative programs;
- c) Conduct medical examination to ensure the physical and mental capability of all the would-be overseas contract workers duly covered by an approved job order;
- d) Set up a system that will effectively monitor the condition of patients and to generate relevant information/data in aid of policy formulation.

SECTION 5. Administration. Upon effectivity of this Act, the Migrant Workers Hospital shall be administered by a Board of Directors consisting of :

- a) The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment -----Ex-officio Chairman
- b) The Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration -----Ex-officio Vice Chairman
- c) The Secretary of the Department of Health -----Ex-officio Member
- d) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development -----Ex-officio member
- e) The Administrator of Philippine Overseas Employment Administration----- Ex-officio member
- f) Two representatives from OCWs Sector:
(one from land based;
one from sea based ----- Members

The two representatives from the OCWs Sector shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from a list of nominees prepared by the Ex-officio Chairman to serve for a term of three (3) years without reappointment.

SECTION 6. Responsibility and Powers. The Board of Directors of the MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

- a) To formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL's objectives and purposes as enunciated in Section 4 of this Act;
- b) To enter into agreements and contracts in connection with its establishment, maintenance, operations and objectives;
- c) To issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Act;
- d) To perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

SECTION 7. *Appropriation.* An amount necessary for the establishment, initial operation of the MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL, shall be taken from the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Subsequently, its appropriation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation which ever comes earlier.

Approved.