

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



'17 JUL 25 11:20

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

S.B. No. 1507

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Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

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**AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS  
IN ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND  
PROVIDING FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT  
PATIENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Dialysis is the process of removing waste products from the blood and removing excess fluid from the body. Patients undergoing dialysis suffers from End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), largely caused by chronic hypertension and diabetes.

In the Philippines, it is estimated that there are around 28,000 patients undergoing dialysis treatment as of 2016. Kidney disease has also been identified as one of the top 10 causes of death in the Philippines.<sup>1</sup> It is also reported that the number of dialysis patients have also been steadily increasing at 10% to 15% annually.

In 2014, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) paid a total of Php4.7 Billion arising from 691,489 claims for dialysis treatment.<sup>2</sup>

Considering the large number of patients who needs to undergo dialysis treatment regularly, dialysis treatment centers should not only be accessible to these patients, but should also be affordable.

For example, a popular city like Baguio City does not even have government-run dialysis centers. This situation is alarming considering that Baguio City is already highly urbanized and is considered a major city in northern Luzon. Thus, patients there are forced to go to farther places or pay the exorbitant fees collected by private dialysis clinics.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.doh.gov.ph/node/1058> (date last accessed: June 29, 2017)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/news/2015/extends\\_dialysis.html](https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/news/2015/extends_dialysis.html) (date last accessed: June 29, 2017)

This situation is further exacerbated by the cost of dialysis treatments. Kidney patients normally has to undergo dialysis treatment two to three times a week, with one treatment costing around Php2,500. This means that a kidney patient has to spend around Php5,000 to Php7,500 per week to survive. While the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has increased its coverage from 45 to 90 dialysis treatments, some, if not all, patients still have to pay for the treatment sessions outside of the 90 days.

Indeed, the accessibility of dialysis centers and the cost of treatments place a great burden on kidney patients, on top of battling their condition.

This bill mandates the establishment of dialysis centers in national, provincial and regional hospitals to ensure that all kidney patients can easily access these centers for their treatment without having to travel far. This bill also recognizes the financial burden faced by dialysis patients and mandates that indigents shall be given free treatments in these centers.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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PATIENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

3  
4 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness  
6 among them. For this purpose, the State shall ensure that patients suffering from  
7 End Stage Renal Disease are accorded timely and appropriate treatment with the  
8 provision of accessible dialysis clinics and free dialysis treatments.

9  
10 **SEC. 2. Establishment of Dialysis Clinics in all National, Regional and**  
11 **Provincial Hospitals.** There shall be established dialysis clinics in all national,  
12 regional and provincial hospitals in the country. The dialysis clinics shall be equipped  
13 with sufficient machines, equipment, paraphernalia and supplies and staffed with the  
14 appropriate number of medical and other personnel.

15  
16 The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the local government units  
17 and other relevant government agencies, shall lead the establishment of these  
18 clinics.

19  
20 **SEC. 3. Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.** The Department of Health,  
21 in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, shall ensure that  
22 indigent patients are accorded free dialysis treatments in national, regional or  
23 provincial hospitals. For this purpose, "indigent patient" refers to a patient who has  
24 no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of his  
25 family, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

26

1 **SEC. 4. Authority to Receive Donations and Exemption from Donor's Taxes,**  
2 **Customs and Tariff Duties.** The DOH shall have the authority to receive donations,  
3 gifts and bequests in order to augment the funding for the establishment of the  
4 dialysis clinics created in accordance with this Act. All donations, contributions or  
5 endowments which may be made by persons or entities to the dialysis clinics in  
6 national, regional and provincial hospitals and the importation of medical equipment  
7 and machineries, spare parts and other medical equipment used solely and  
8 exclusively by the dialysis clinics shall be exempt from income or donor's taxes, any  
9 other direct or indirect taxes, wharfage fees and other charges and restrictions.

10  
11 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within sixty (60) days from the  
12 implementation of this Act, the Department of Health, upon consultation with relevant  
13 stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to implement the  
14 provisions of this Act.

15  
16 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** An initial amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000)  
17 shall be appropriated for the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, its appropriation  
18 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

19  
20 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
21 regulations or part thereof deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
22 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23  
24 **SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the  
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of  
26 general circulation.

27  
28 **Approved.**