

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

'04 OCT 26 P5:30

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S. No. **1835**

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Government doctors, nurses, barangay health workers (BHWs) and other medical practitioners in government service have been leaving the country in droves lured by good and high-paying jobs as nurses and caregivers in different countries, notably in the United States and the United Kingdom. A study by the National Institute of Health revealed that the Philippines is now the world's top exporter of nurses. Over 50,000 nurses had left the Philippines over the past three years, a number of them were doctors who studied nursing so they could leave the country for greener pastures.

Government-employed doctors receive on average a salary of P15,000 a month. On the contrary, a doctor who works as a nurse in the United States could earn by as much as 16 times more than their Philippine counterpart or P216,000 a month. Meanwhile, a nurse working in Singapore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom can earn a salary of P42,000, P54,000 and P119,000 in those countries respectively.

The steady flight of government health workers to internationally lucrative countries has caused a gross inadequacy in government health workers in the country. Records show that as of 2003, there is only one government doctor for every 28,493 Filipinos, one government nurse for every 16,986, one government midwife for every 5,193, and one rural health unit for every 29,746 Filipinos. These figures are expected to rise with a 2.36 percent yearly increase in population.

Concerned sectors are alarmed with the mass exodus of government health workers and believe that an increase in their salaries is necessary to address the country's health concerns. This bill proposes to increase the basic pay of government physician by raising the minimum basic pay of physicians to at least Salary Grade 23. This would result to almost 30 percent increase in the minimum pay of government physician.

The approval of this bill will undoubtedly go a long way in boosting the morale of our government physicians, thus increasing their efficiency in the performance of their tasks.



MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE SALARY OF GOVERNMENT
DOCTORS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Statement of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to assume responsibility for the protection and improvement of the well-being of our physicians by instituting measures that will improve their socio-economic security and advancement.

SECTION 2. *Coverage.* - The provisions of this Act shall apply to all government physicians through out the country. Government physician as used in this Act, refers to Doctors of Medicine, duly certified by the Professional Regulatory Commission who are in the active practice of medicine, employed by the national government or a local government unit, as the case may be, either in public health institutions or in any other government agency.

SECTION 3. *Salary Grade Adjustment.* - In order to enhance the general welfare, commitment to service and professionalism of physicians, the minimum base pay of physicians working in the public health institutions shall not be lower than salary grade 23 prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the "Compensation and Classification Act of 1989": Provided, That for physicians working in local government units, adjustments to their salaries shall be in accordance with Section 10 of the said law.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars and memoranda inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - Should any provision of this Act, be declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other provisions hereof shall be affected thereby.

SECTION 6. *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

The DBM shall, within sixty (60) days after its approval, allocate all positions in their appropriate position titles and salary grades and prepare and issue the necessary guidelines to implement the same.

Approved,