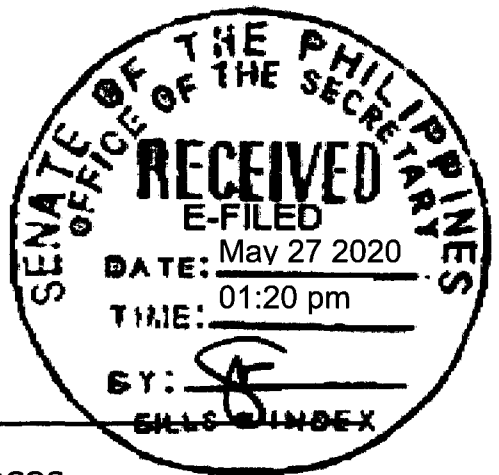


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S.B. NO. 1552

Introduced by SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES INTO THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, UPGRADING AND MODERNIZING ITS FACILITIES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. It is the policy of the state to ensure that all communities have access to quality and accessible healthcare.

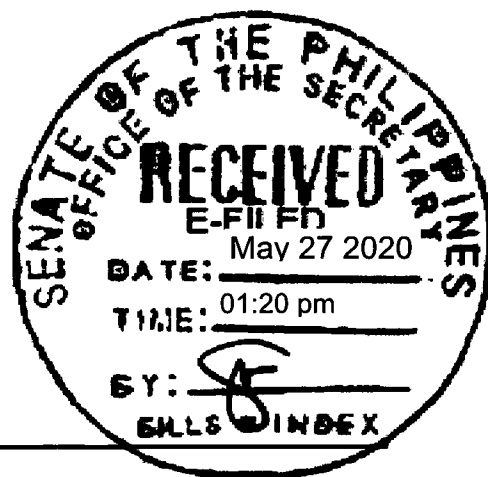
The Ramon Magsaysay Provincial Hospital situated in the Municipality of Iba, Zambales offers medical and health care services to the residents of the municipality and its neighboring communities. The current set up of the hospital is limited and cannot effectively attend to the health concerns of the people of Zambales. Advanced medical and surgical procedures cannot be performed due to the limited medical facilities and financial resources of the hospital. What is more pressing is that the nearest tertiary hospital is at least 60 kilometers away and is inaccessible to those in desperate need.

To address this issue, this bill seeks to convert the President Ramon Magsaysay Provincial Hospital into a tertiary public hospital to be known as the Ramon Magsaysay Regional Medical Center. The authorized bed capacity shall be increased to three hundred (300)-beds, the facilities shall be upgraded and modernized to be more responsive to the medical and health care needs of the people in Zambales and its neighboring municipalities and provinces.

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


IMEE R. MARCOS
Senator

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Ramon Magsaysay
2 Regional Medical Center Charter."
3

4 Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to
5 protect and promote the right to health, instill health consciousness among the people
6 and advance the integrated and comprehensive approach to health development
7 research.
8

9 Section 3. *Conversion, Upgrading and Modernization into a Regional Medical*
10 *Center.* – The Ramon Magsaysay Provincial Hospital in the Municipality of Iba, Province
11 of Zambales is hereby converted into a three hundred (300)-bed capacity, tertiary
12 public hospital to be known as the Ramon Magsaysay Regional Medical Center and
13 shall hereinafter be referred to as the Medical Center. The Medical Center shall
14 upgrade and modernize its existing equipment and facilities to ensure that it shall be
15 responsive to the health needs of the people of Region III. It shall, likewise, endeavor
16 to be abreast with the latest available biomedical and research facilities that shall be
17 made available to patients at minimal cost.
18

19 Section 4. *Scope and Coverage of the Regional Medical Center.* – For purposes
20 of this Act, the scope and coverage of the Medical Center shall be the treatment and
21 study of all cardio-pulmonary, gastro-intestinal, neurologic, endocrinologic,
22 intergumentary, musculoskeletal and other diseases of infectious, non-infectious or
23 autoimmune nature with special attention to diseases that present differently in this

1 geographical region as compared to other regions; *Provided*, That the Department of
2 Health (DOH) may include such other pertinent diseases in consultation with the
3 Advisory Board that is herein created.

4
5 Section 5. *Organization.* – The Medical Center shall be organized as follows:

6
7 (a) The Medical Center shall be operated as a special project of the DOH in Region
8 III. The Secretary of Health shall promulgate policies for and exercise overall
9 supervision over the Medical Center;

10
11 (b) The Medical Center shall be headed by a Medical Director who shall be assisted
12 by two (2) assistant directors, all of whom shall be appointed by the Secretary
13 of the DOH. The Medical Director shall be responsible for the implementation
14 of policies and the immediate management of the programs and operations of
15 the Medical Center; and

16
17 (c) The assistant directors shall assist the Medical Director in the performance of
18 his operational duties, and shall perform such other functions as may be
19 directed by the Medical Director. One (1) assistant director shall be tasked to
20 overlook the policy, planning and monitoring activities of the Medical Center,
21 while the other shall be responsible for support staff services.

22
23 Section 6. *Powers and Functions.* – The Medical Center shall have the following
24 powers and functions:

25
26 (a) Undertake research activities in the diagnosis, control and prevention of
27 diseases that are major causes of mortality and morbidity in Region III;

28 (b) Conduct clinical trials aimed at better understanding and control of diseases;

29 (c) Conduct regular training courses for medical and paramedical personnel in the
30 control of common diseases not just in the Region but in the country as well;

31 (d) Provide high-quality tertiary care to both inpatients and outpatients suffering
32 from tropical diseases included within the scope of the Medical Center's
33 activities;

34 (e) Participate in technical cooperation program in coordination with the DOH's
35 Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in research activities in the diagnosis,
36 control and prevention of tropical diseases;

37 (f) Apply for, receive and accept bequests, grants and donation of funds,
38 equipment materials and services needed for the attainment of its objectives;
39 and

40 (g) Perform such other related activities as may be assigned by the DOH.

1
2 Section 7. *Personnel.* – The Medical Center shall have its technical and
3 administrative support. The officers and employees of the Medical Center shall be
4 appointed by the Secretary of Health, upon recommendation of the Advisory board,
5 in accordance with existing laws governing such. Consultants may be drawn from the
6 public and private sectors on consultancy or contractual basis and shall be granted
7 honoraria or allowances at such amounts as may be determined in accordance with
8 existing rules and regulations.

9
10 Section 8. *Advisory Board.* – There shall be in the Medical Center an Advisory
11 Board to be administered under the direction of the Secretary of Health to be
12 composed of the following officials or their duly designated representatives:

- 13
14 (a) The Secretary of the DOH or the duly designated representative;
15 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) or the
16 duly designated representative;
17 (c) The Medical Director of the Medical Center;
18 (d) One (1) representative from the association of medical research organizations
19 to be appointed by the Secretary of Health; and
20 (e) One (1) representative from the Philippine Medical Association. The functions
21 of the Advisory Board shall be:
22 a. Formulate and recommend to the Secretary of Health policies, programs,
23 standards and guidelines for the effective and efficient operation of the
24 Medical Center;
25 b. Review, endorse and recommend to the Secretary of Health the annual
26 budget plan;
27 c. Advise the Medical Center of the creation and implementation of its
28 vision and missions;
29 d. Report annually to the Secretary of Health on its activities and, whenever
30 necessary, make recommendations in relation to the performance of the
31 Medical Center; and
32 e. Recommend to the Secretary of Health the appointments of officers,
33 personnel and consultants of the Medical Center;

34
35 Section 9. *Biomedical Research Functions.* – The functions of the Medical Center
36 involving biomedical research will be undertaken together with applicable
37 appropriations, records, equipment, property and such personnel as may be
38 necessary; *Provided,* That the conduct of any biomedical research in the Medical
39 Center shall be upon the approval of an ethics review committee created for the
40 purpose.

1 Section 10. *Funding.* – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the
2 Department’s appropriation funds necessary for the implementation of this Act which
3 shall be charged against the current year’s unappropriated balance of the Department
4 of Health. An appropriation of one hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) shall be
5 included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year succeeding the
6 implementation of this Act are fully implemented is hereby set aside for the purpose
7 of this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the
8 Medical Center shall be included in the GAA of the Republic of the Philippines.

9
10 Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, ordinances and rules
11 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified or repealed
12 accordingly.

13
14 Section 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held
15 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and binding.

16
17 Section 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
18 the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
19 circulation.

Approved,