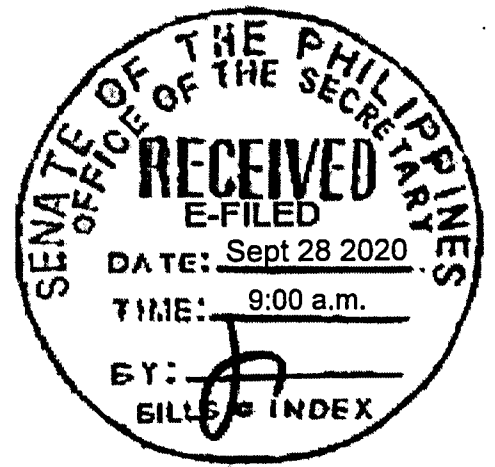


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE  
S.B. No. 1850

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Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
OFFERING MEDICAL DEGREES NATIONWIDE, AND PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic exposed several weaknesses in our country's capability to handle and solve public health emergencies – the most glaring one being the lack of health care institution and medical professionals especially in areas outside of urban centers. In fact, the Department of Health (DOH), in order to augment the existing manpower of medical professionals, has constantly been recruiting healthcare workers through its emergency hiring for Human Resources for Health (HRH). As of 5 September 2020 data, DOH was able to hire 7,575 healthcare workers.

However, it is clear that our healthcare system is already at a disadvantage even before this health crisis. According to the study conducted by the University of the Philippines (UP) entitled "Estimating Local Healthcare Capacity to Deal with COVID-19 Case Surge: Analysis and Recommendations," there are only 3.7 doctors per 10,000 population in the Philippines – below the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation of 10 doctors per 10,000 population. In fact, only the National Capital Region (NCR) has achieved the WHO recommendation while other regions, such as Region IV-B with only 1.8 and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) with only 0.8 doctor per 10,000 population, are barely able to fill the recommended ratio.

Furthermore, the UP study also cited that the country's hospital bed per 10,000 population is only at 6.1 with the NCR having the highest ratio at 13.5 and Region IV-B with only 1 – contrary to the data from DOH which shows the ratio is at 9.4 hospital beds per 10,000 population. Hence, the data reported that six out of ten Filipinos die without seeing a medical professional is not surprising, but is certainly alarming. This dilemma has even become more evident recently, when over 80 medical societies issued a strong position stressing that the country's healthcare system has been overwhelmed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

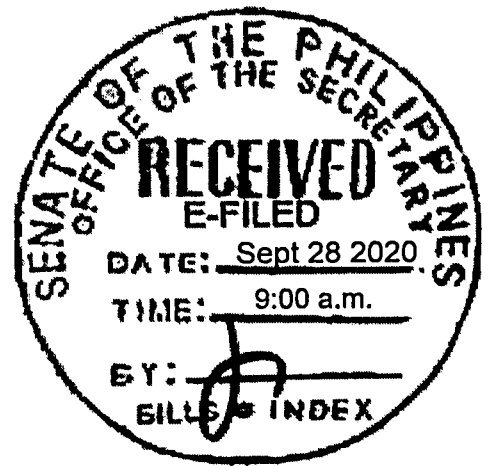
Therefore, to strengthen the country's capability to cater to the health services needs of Filipinos, the proposed measure seeks to create new hospitals which will be attached to state colleges and universities (SUCs) offering medical degree programs. In addition, these hospitals to be created within the SUCs will enable its medical students to have the proper training ground for them to fully acquire the needed skills, knowledge and experience.

With more healthcare institutions and healthcare workers to support the full implementation of Republic Act No. 11223 of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, more Filipinos – especially the underprivileged – will be able to access the needed healthcare services so as not to succumb to preventable, diagnosable, and treatable illnesses. In addition, the establishment of more hospitals will help prevent the high attrition rate of our very capable healthcare workers as there will be more hospitals to employ them. It is the goal of this measure to help achieve the prescribed ratio of medical professionals to the population as well as increase the ratio of hospital beds to the population. Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**SONNY ANGARA**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**  
**OFFERING MEDICAL DEGREES NATIONWIDE, AND PROVIDING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as cited as the "Healthcare  
2 Facility Augmentation" Act.

3           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The 1987 Constitution guarantees the right  
4 to health of the people and mandates the State to make health services available to  
5 all the people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State shall empower the state  
6 colleges and universities (SUCs) in the country to contribute in providing health care  
7 services to the community as well as enabling its medical students to have the  
8 appropriate training ground.

9           **SEC. 3. Establishment of Hospitals in State Colleges and Universities.**  
10 – There is hereby established a hospital, with a bed capacity of not less than 50 beds,  
11 in every state university and college (SUC) offering a medical degree. The Department  
12 of Health (DOH), through its nearest regional hospital, and in coordination with the  
13 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the concerned SUCs, shall provide the  
14 necessary technical assistance on the construction of said hospitals to ensure  
15 conformity with the standards set by the department.

16           The management and operations of the hospital including the hiring of required  
17 medical personnel shall be with the concerned SUCs: *Provided*, That to ensure proper  
18 coordination with existing policies and programs of the DOH, the concerned SUCs shall

1 elect or appoint the DOH Regional Director in the governing boards of the hospital:  
2 *Provided further*, That any income derived from the operation of the hospital shall be  
3 retained by the concerned SUCs to answer for expenses and upgrading cost of their  
4 hospitals: *Provided finally*, That hospitals established under this Act as well as those  
5 already existing in SUCs shall remain operational during public health emergencies  
6 including, but not limited to, outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics.

7 **SEC. 4. Construction and Site of the Hospital** – After a period of planning  
8 not exceeding one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Act, the hospital and the  
9 necessary equipment for its operations shall be established and put in place within the  
10 grounds of the concerned SUC: *Provided*, That the construction of the hospital shall  
11 be completed within five (5) years after the period of planning as stated under this  
12 Section.

13 **SEC. 5. Training for Medical Students** – Hospitals established under this  
14 Act as well as those already existing in SUCs shall serve as the training ground for  
15 medical students in the concerned SUCs: *Provided*, That graduates of the medical  
16 degree programs in the concerned SUCs who availed of a government scholarship  
17 program shall be required to render their return service in the hospital of the SUC  
18 which they graduated from.

19 **SEC. 6. Reportorial Requirements.** – The concerned SUCs shall submit  
20 through CHED, on an annual basis, a detailed report on the progress of the  
21 implementation of this Act to the Senate Committees on Higher, Technical and  
22 Vocational Education and Health and Demography, and the House Committees on  
23 Higher and Technical Education and Health.

24 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions  
25 of this Act shall automatically be included in the annual appropriations of the SUCs for  
26 the next five years upon the implementation of this Act.

27 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid  
28 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in  
29 full force and effect.

30 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and  
31 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
32 repealed or modified accordingly

1           **SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
2 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of the general  
3 circulation.

*Approved,*