

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

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**SENATE**

**S. B. No. 1321**

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY CENTERS IN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HOSPITALS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. However, even with the continuous investment of the government in the country's healthcare system, access to hospitals providing specialized healthcare services for every Filipino remains limited due to the unavailability of facilities or unaffordable costs.

Republic Act (RA) No. 11223 known as the "Universal Health Care (UHC) Act" aims to ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services and are protected against financial risk. As mandated by the UHC Act, health care provider networks (HCPNs) shall be established by the Department of Health (DOH) to ensure effective and efficient delivery of population-based and individual-based health services. HCPNs shall efficiently deliver coordinated and continuous health care from primary to tertiary level with linkages to an apex or end-referral hospital and other facilities providing specialized services needed by its catchment population.

The establishment of specialty centers in Department of Health (DOH) Hospitals is more cost-efficient, practical, and time-saving considering that the healthcare

experts in the regions and other personnel are already available and accessible in these hospitals. Further, the infrastructure and equipment would just have to be upgraded and complemented, as compared to constructing new specialty hospitals. The immediate passage of this bill is a fulfillment of our promise to provide quality, accessible, and affordable quality healthcare services to every Filipino.

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



**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY CENTERS IN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**HOSPITALS, AND APPROPRIATING 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 the "Specialty Centers in Every  
2 Region Act of 2022."

3

4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote  
5 the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them by  
6 making health services available, accessible, and affordable for all.

7

8 Sec. 3. *Specialty Centers.* - The Department of Health (DOH) shall establish  
9 Specialty Centers in select DOH hospitals which shall be a unit or department in a  
10 hospital that offers specialized care addressing particular conditions and providing  
11 specific procedures and management of cases requiring specialized training and  
12 equipment.

13

14 The DOH, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission and the Department  
15 of Budget and Management, shall develop organizational structures and staffing  
16 standards for the types and levels of Specialty Centers.

17

1        Sec. 4. Period of Implementation. - Within three (3) years upon the enactment of  
2 this Act, there shall be at least one (1) specialty center in DOH hospitals in Northern  
3 Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Southern Mindanao. Within  
4 five (5) years upon the enactment of this Act, there shall be at least one (1) specialty  
5 center in every region.

6  
7        Sec. 5. *National Specialty Centers.* - The national specialty centers such as the  
8 Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the  
9 Philippines, Philippine Children's Medical Center and Philippine Cancer Center shall  
10 lead in the development of policies, protocols, and standards for the particular  
11 specialty and shall have the highest level of clinical services, training, and research  
12 capability. Further, they shall provide scientific leadership and lead the Specialty  
13 Centers by providing specialty training and technical assistance.

14        The national specialty centers are encouraged to establish satellite offices in  
15 identified DOH hospitals with specialty centers to oversee policies, protocols, and  
16 standards in the specialty center.

17  
18        Sec. 6. *Criteria for the Establishment of Specialty Centers.* - The establishment of  
19 Specialty Centers in DOH Hospitals shall adhere to guidelines set by the DOH on  
20 planning and prioritizing health facilities based on, but not limited to, the following  
21 criteria:

22        (a) Upgrading of hospitals to become Specialty Centers based on the Resource  
23        Stratified Framework developed by DOH for each specialty care;

24        (b) Evidence of the health needs and demands, including disease burdens, in the  
25        catchment populations of the DOH facilities, in consultation with concerned  
26        stakeholders;

27        (c) Service capability of the hospital and geographic or physical access;

28        (d) Appropriate level of specialized healthcare provider role in the continuum of  
29        care, including roles of the DOH hospitals as referral for province-wide and city-  
30        wide healthcare provider networks;

31        (e) Availability of competent health human resources for specialized healthcare;  
32        and

1 (f) Operational and financial performance of the DOH facilities, including  
2 accreditation to avail of specialized healthcare packages from the Philippine  
3 Health Insurance Corporation.  
4

5 *Sec. 7. Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP).* - The DOH shall  
6 include the plans for the establishment of Specialty Centers in DOH hospitals in the  
7 PHFDP, which serves as a guide for investments funded by the national government  
8 to rationalize the distribution of capacity and capability of health facilities. All  
9 government health facilities shall formulate their development plans consistent with  
10 the PHFDP in order to access capital outlay investment through the Health Facilities  
11 Enhancement Program of the DOH.  
12

13 *Sec. 8. Report to Congress.* - The Head of the DOH hospitals designated as  
14 Specialty Centers shall provide the DOH and the congress, through the committee on  
15 health of the house of representatives and the Committee on Health and demography  
16 of the senate, an annual report of its activities, accomplishments, and operational  
17 plans of the said Specialty Centers.  
18

19 *SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOH, in consultation with the  
20 heads of DOH hospitals and other concerned agencies, shall formulate, identify, and  
21 promulgate the implementing guidelines, rules and regulations necessary to carry out  
22 the purposes of this Act.  
23

24 *Sec. 10. Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's  
25 program the establishment and operationalization of the Specialty Centers in selected  
26 DOH Hospitals, the funding of which shall be included in the budget of the DOH under  
27 the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).  
28

29 *Sec. 11. Separability Clause.* - Should any provision herein be declared  
30 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this  
31 Act.  
32

1        *Sec. 12. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or  
2 other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4

5        *Sec. 13. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
6 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*