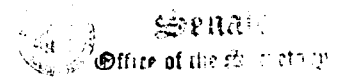


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



24 JAN 23 P1:10

SENATE
S.B. No. 2523

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11959, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"REGIONAL SPECIALTY CENTERS ACT", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

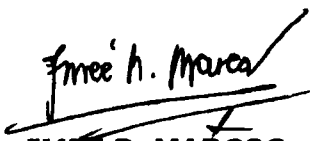
EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the pressing issues that hinder equitable access to healthcare in our country is the uneven distribution of specialty medical services. Many Filipinos residing in rural and far-flung areas face difficulties in obtaining specialized medical care due to the concentration of specialty facilities in Metro Manila.

To bridge this gap, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11959 or the "Regional Specialty Centers Act" was enacted last 24 August 2023 to mandate the establishment of specialty centers in DOH hospitals across regions. To augment this measure, this bill seeks to mandate the DOH to enter into partnerships with private hospitals to complement gaps in government services and leverage the strengths and resources of both public and private healthcare institutions in delivering specialized medical services.

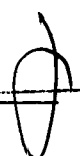
Additionally, the shortage of medical health workers poses a significant challenge to our healthcare system. Rural and remote areas often face acute shortages of healthcare professionals, resulting in inadequate access to medical care with specialized fields. Thus, this bill calls for a collaboration between the DOH, private hospitals, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), private educational institutions, and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to address this issue. Incentives such as scholarships and loan repayment programs will be employed to encourage medical students to pursue internships and careers in underserved specialty centers.

Given the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS

24 JAN 23 P1:10

SENATE
S.B. No. 2523

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11959, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"REGIONAL SPECIALTY CENTERS ACT", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **Sec. 1.** A new Section 6 is hereby inserted after Section 5 of R.A. No. 11959
2 otherwise known as the "Regional Specialty Centers Act" to read as follows:

3
4 **"SEC. 6. PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE HOSPITALS. –**

5
6 **(a) DOH REGIONAL HOSPITALS SHALL ENTER INTO**
7 **PARTNERSHIPS OR AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE**
8 **HOSPITAL/S WITHIN THEIR AREAS TO JOINTLY**
9 **PROVIDE SPECIALTY MEDICAL SERVICES THAT MAY**
10 **NOT BE FULLY AVAILABLE OR ACCESSIBLE IN SAID DOH**
11 **REGIONAL HOSPITALS.**

12
13 **(B) THESE PARTNERSHIPS SHALL PRIORITIZE**
14 **SERVICES IN SPECIALIZED FIELDS SUCH AS BUT NOT**
15 **LIMITED TO CARDIOVASCULAR CARE, INFECTIOUS**
16 **DISEASES AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, LUNG CARE,**
17 **MENTAL HEALTH, NEONATAL CARE, ORTHOPEDIC CARE,**
18 **GERIATRIC CARE, PALLIATIVE CARE, AND OTHER**
19 **SPECIALIZED MEDICAL DISCIPLINES THAT MAY BE**
20 **IDENTIFIED BY THE DOH.**

21
22 **(C) THE DOH, IN COORDINATION WITH THE PRIVATE**
23 **HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, SHALL**
24 **ESTABLISH GUIDELINES, PROTOCOLS, STANDARDS,**
25 **AND MECHANISMS FOR THE SELECTION OF PARTNER**
26 **PRIVATE HOSPITALS, INCLUDING THE TERMS OF**
27 **COLLABORATION, SERVICE QUALITY ASSURANCE, AND**
28 **EQUITABLE COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS."**
29

1 **Sec. 2.** A new Section 7 is hereby inserted after Section 6 of R.A. No. 11959
2 to read as follows:

3
4 **"SEC. 7. COLLABORATION WITH MEDICAL SCHOOLS. –**
5 **THE DOH SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE COMMISSION**
6 **ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), PRIVATE**
7 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND STATE**
8 **UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCS) THAT OFFER**
9 **MEDICAL DEGREE PROGRAMS.**

10
11 **THE CHED, CONCERNED PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL**
12 **INSTITUTIONS, AND SUCS SHALL ESTABLISH**
13 **PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES TO INCENTIVIZE**
14 **MEDICAL STUDENTS TO PURSUE INTERNSHIPS AND**
15 **CAREERS IN THE CONCERNED DOH REGIONAL**
16 **HOSPITALS, AS MENTIONED IN SEC. 6 OF THIS ACT,**
17 **SUCH AS SCHOLARSHIPS, LOAN REPAYMENT**
18 **PROGRAMS, AND OTHER INCENTIVES.**

19
20
21 **Sec. 3.** The succeeding sections of R.A . No. 11959 are hereby renumbered
22 accordingly.

23
24 **Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part, section, or
25 provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or
26 provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

27
28 **Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
29 proclamations, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof,
30 which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
31 accordingly.

32
33 **Sec. 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
34 publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

35
36 *Approved,*