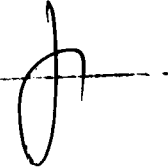


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

24 FEB -7 P12 :45

SENATE
S. No. 2539

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

AN ACT
INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL
FROM ONE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED BEDS (1,500) TO TWO
THOUSAND AND TWO HUNDRED BEDS (2,200) AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

In 1907, the Philippine Commission passed Act No. 1688 for the construction of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH). The PGH opened its doors to the public on September 1, 1910 to provide health and medical services to all Filipinos. Today, PGH is considered the biggest modern government tertiary hospital in the Philippines, servicing more than 600,000 patients annually. It remains a national referral center for tertiary care, providing direct and quality patient services to thousands of indigent Filipinos all over the country.¹

Due to its extensive range of services, numerous Filipinos are frequently availing the services of the PGH, mostly serving patients who are impoverished.

¹ <https://www.pgh.gov.ph/about-us/>

Consequently, PGH faces ongoing challenges in delivering the necessary medical services and care to each patient due to its limited facility and capacity.

For instance, the Department of Health in October 2023 pointed out that PGH frequently exceeds its operational capacity, often exceeding 200 percent of its daily limit. Likewise in June 2022, the PGH reported that its emergency room capacity has already reached up to 200 percent due to patients with non-COVID-19 related issues such as pneumonia, diabetes, and heart, lung and kidney diseases.

In light of this situation, this measure seeks to increase the bed capacity of the PGH from 1,500 to 2,200 in order to expand their services and cater more Filipinos who seek medical care.

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

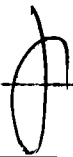


SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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

1 **Section 1.** The authorized bed capacity of the Philippine General Hospital
2 (PGH) is hereby increased from one thousand and five hundred (1,500) to two
3 thousand and two hundred (2,200).
4

5 **Sec. 2.** The existing hospital facilities and professional health care services of
6 the PGH, shall be correspondingly upgraded to include the increase in the number of
7 its medical personnel. The University of the Philippines (UP) shall promulgate the
8 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
9

10 **Sec. 3.** The increase in the bed capacity of the PGH from one thousand and
11 five hundred beds (1,500) to two thousand and two hundred (2,200) beds shall be
12 implemented within the period of six (6) months to one (1) year from the approval of
13 this Act.
14

15 **Sec. 4.** The University of the Philippines, through its approved annual budget,
16 shall initially provide the necessary funding to support the increase in bed capacity of
17 the PGH. The entire budgetary requirements of PGH for its operation and the

1 upgrading of its facilities and services shall be included in the annual General
2 Appropriations Act (GAA) the following year of its enactment.

3

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

Approved,