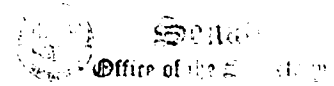


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



24 FEB -7 P4 :36

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 2544**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS HOSPITAL IN**  
**VISAYAS AND MINDANAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses, and orphans.

Our war veterans made an invaluable and extraordinary contribution in safeguarding our national security. Their contributions were significant not only during their days but up until now. They are part of our history and the reason why the Philippines is blessed with independence from any internal and external threat.

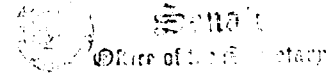
In recognition of their heroic acts and sacrifices, it is necessary for the government to provide adequate care to them, such as quality hospitalization, medical care, and treatment. However, there is only one veterans hospital in the Philippines. The Veterans Memorial Medical Center, located in Metro Manila. The existing veterans hospital may not be easily accessible to some of our veterans who are situated in far-flung areas, and those who are residing in Visayas and Mindanao.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish a veterans hospital in Visayas and in Mindanao, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Health (DOH).

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

**MARK A. VILLAR**

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**AN ACT**  
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**VISAYAS AND MINDANAO**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Veterans Hospital Act*  
2 *of 2024*’.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as policy of the State to  
4 provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms or assistance to war  
5 veterans and veterans of military campaigns in recognition of their invaluable service  
6 to the nation. Thus, State shall ensure that veterans have access to quality  
7 hospitalization, medical care, and treatment and shall establish appropriate institutions  
8 for such care.

9 Sec. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act aims to establish a veterans hospital in Visayas and  
10 Mindanao to ensure that the Philippine war veterans, who are situated in far-flung  
11 areas and residing in Visayas and Mindanao, be able to access hospitals for them to  
12 obtain appropriate medical attention. The veterans hospitals shall have the following  
13 objectives:

- 14 a. To provide comprehensive and total health care services to Filipino  
15 veterans including medical, surgical, and psychiatric services.  
16 b. To offer rehabilitative and long-term care to veterans with service-  
17 connected disabilities.

1 c. To serve as centers for health care research for the improvement of  
2 veterans' medical care.

3 d. To provide support services for the families and beneficiaries of the  
4 Filipino veterans.

5 Sec. 4. *Hospital Site.* – The hospital site shall be strategically located in Visayas  
6 and Mindanao where the veterans have easy access. They shall be equipped with  
7 modern medical facilities and equipment necessary for the delivery of effective health  
8 care services. The veterans hospital shall be under the direct control and supervision  
9 of the Department of Health (DOH).

10 Sec. 5. *Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – The Secretary of the DOH  
11 shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern in accordance with  
12 the revised compensation and position classification system subject to the evaluation  
13 and approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and in compliance  
14 with the civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

15 Sec. 6. *Supervision.* – The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) shall have  
16 the power to supervise the functions and actions of personnel and staff of these  
17 veteran hospitals, to ensure that their actions are consistent with the objective of this  
18 Act.

19 Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the  
20 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding shall be included  
21 and funded under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be  
22 necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual GAA.

23 Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOH, in coordination with  
24 the PVAO, Department of National Defense and other concerned agencies, shall issue  
25 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

26 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
27 unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

28 Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and  
29 regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

30 Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
31 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*