

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL -2 P1:58

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 424

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the State's responsibility to deliver basic health services to the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children, as mandated by the Constitution in Article XII, Section 11.

One of the basic services that have been proven to be "difficult" to avail of, especially in the rural areas, is oral and dental health care. Children in these areas are not taught about the importance of this much-needed care. Even the adults do not pay much attention to oral hygiene. And it is not enough, though, that the barangay health centers have one or two dentists who will perform dental treatments on the people.

Hence, this bill is being proposed. It seeks to provide free dental services in the rural areas. It addresses the concern that dental consultations and other services can be costly. For this purpose, it shall require all graduates of dental schools who have taken licensure examination, prior to the issuance of the licenses, to render free dental services. This practice shall surely benefit rural population for whom such services are not readily available and, at the same instill in the new dental practitioners a sense of unselfish service to the public.

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


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL -2 P198

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 424

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

**AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL DENTISTS TO GIVE FREE DENTAL SERVICES IN RURAL
AREAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 4419, ALSO
KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE DENTAL ACT OF 1965", AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Section 2, Article II of Republic Act 4419 is hereby amended
and is read as follows:

"SECTION 2. Objectives. – This Act provides for:

- a) The regulation, control, and supervision of the practice of dentistry in the Philippines;
- b) The giving of licensure examinations to graduates of recognized dental schools for the purpose;
- c) The regulation and standardization of dental education;
- d) The promotion and development of dental research in the country; [and]
- e) THE CONDUCTING OF FREE DENTAL SERVICE IN RURAL AREAS AS ANOTHER PRE-REQUISITE FOR DENTISTRY GRADUATES, IN ADDITION TO SUCCESSFULLY PASSING THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION; AND,
- f) The stipulation of penalties for infractions or violations of this Act."

SEC 2. Section 9 of R.A. 4419 is amended as follows:

"SECTION 9. Powers Vested in Board. – The Board of Dental Examiners is vested with authority, conformably with the provisions of this Act, to issue, suspend or revoke certificates of registration for the practice of dentistry, or to reissue the same,

subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines. The Board shall have the power to administer oaths, to investigate violations for this Act or other laws and regulations within the jurisdiction of the Board, and for this purpose, it may, under the hand of its chairman and seal of the Board, issue a summons, subpoena or subpoena duces tecum to alleged violators of this Act and witnesses x x x IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE DENTAL SERVICE PROGRAM IN THE RURAL AREAS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY ALL GRADUATES OF DENTAL SCHOOLS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THEIR LICENSE. The Board shall exercise the power conferred upon it by this Act, shall from time to time, look into the conditions affecting the practice of dentistry in the Philippines, and whenever necessary, adopt or recommend such measures, or discharge such duties, as may be deemed proper for the advancement of the profession, the maintenance of accepted ethical and technical standards, and the vigorous enforcement of this Act.”

SEC 3. A new Section 13 shall be inserted and be read as follows:

“SECTION 13. FREE DENTAL SERVICE PROGRAM IN THE RURAL AREAS. – ALL GRADUATES OF DENTAL SCHOOLS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION, PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF SAID LICENSE, SHALL BE REQUIRED TO RENDER FREE DENTAL SERVICE IN THE RURAL AREAS FOR THREE (3) MONTHS. THE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS SHALL PROMULGATE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH PROGRAM, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.”

SEC 4. The succeeding provisions shall be re-numbered accordingly.

SEC 5. A new section 40 shall be inserted and be read as follows:

“SECTION 40. APPROPRIATION FOR THE FREE DENTAL SERVICE PROGRAM IN THE RURAL AREAS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATION SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.”

SEC 6. The succeeding provisions shall likewise be re-numbered.

“SECTION [39] 41. Enforcement of Act by officers of the laws. x x x”

SEC 7. Sections 40 and 41 of R.A. 4419 shall be amended as follows:

"SECTION [40] 42. Repealing Clause. – All laws, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION [41] 43. Separability Clause. – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision thereof shall be affected thereby.

SECTION 44. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect for a period of two (2) years commencing upon its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,