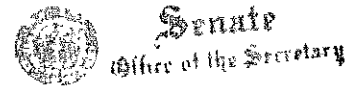


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



13 JUL -1 P4 :03

SENATE
S. B. No. 170

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Sergio Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution explicitly provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The enactment of the Local Government Code in 1991 sought to give meaning to such mandate. Under the Code, local government units (LGUs) were granted more powers, authorities, responsibilities and resources. A year after its enactment, the "Implementing Rules and Regulations" on the devolution of health services was created.

Among those devolved to the LGUs were hospitals and field health services of the Department of Health (DOH). The full implementation of the Local Government Code in 1993 transferred the operation of provincial and district hospitals to the provincial governors and rural health units (RHUs) to the city and municipal mayors. This translates to 580 hospitals being operated by the governors and 2,000 RHUs under the mayors, and a total of 45,082 health personnel devolved to the local government. Meanwhile, DOH's residual powers, functions and responsibilities remain. These include the oversight (general supervision) monitoring and evaluation functions, formulation of standards and guidelines, and technical and other forms of assistance to the LGUs.

Notwithstanding the devolution of health services in 1993, the deterioration of health facilities and equipment remains deplorable, as even the Department of Health has to admit. As early as 1995, the DOH reported in its Hospital Devolution Study that LGU funds to finance operations of devolved health services were inadequate.

The problems brought about by devolution led to the deterioration of health services particularly in far-flung areas where services are needed most. Only 1/3 of the total number of hospitals and about 1/2 of hospital beds are public. Out of the country's 41,000 barangays, only 1/4 have a barangay health station. These government health facilities have acquired increasing notoriety for their lack of equipment, medicines and staff.

This bill attempts to respond to an urgent need to effectively address these health issues in order to rationalize the health care delivery system in our country.

[Signature]
SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

)
)
)

13 JUL -1 P 4 :03

REC'D BY: *[Signature]*

S E N A T E

S. B. No. 170

Introduced by Senator Sergio Osmeña III

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "**Health Care Delivery,**
2 **Modernization Act of 2013.**"

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** -- It is hereby declared a policy of
4 the State to modernize the health care delivery system to a level where it can
5 fully and effectively perform its constitutional mandate to protect and promote
6 the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.
7 Toward this end, the principal thrust of this modernization program under this
8 Act shall be as follows:

9 (a) The development of an efficient and effective health care delivery
10 system throughout the country;

11 (b) The integration of the promotive, preventive, curative and
12 rehabilitative aspects of health care delivery to be under the local chief
13 executive whenever appropriate;

14 (c) The transformation of government hospitals into self-governing
15 components, together with their respective rural health units;

16 (d) The development of cooperation among the local and national
17 government agencies, members of Congress and the private sector, including

1 the civic, religious and non-government organizations;

2 (e) The implementation of a residency training and accreditation program
3 and accreditation of private specialist practitioners in provincial hospitals and
4 medical centers;

5 (f) The establishment of a dependable two-way referral system between
6 the public and health worker up to the successive higher level of health care
7 stations reaching up to the specialty hospitals and vice versa;

8 (g) The delineation of specific and specialized functions that will enable
9 the Department of Health (DOH) to concentrate its efforts in establishing and
10 maintaining adequately equipped state-of-the-art medical centers at the regional
11 level, including those in Metro Manila, and specialty hospitals in the country,
12 including those with *original* charters;

13 (h) The development of partnership among local government units and
14 between local government units and the Department of Health (DOH) in the
15 establishment of health care delivery facilities; and

16 (i) Local government units shall adopt a system and procedure to attain
17 maximum level of transparency in the procurement of equipment and medicines.

18 **SECTION 3. Statement of Objectives.** The Health Care Delivery
19 Modernization Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, shall be
20 implemented in accordance with the following objectives:

21 a. To modernize the health care delivery system by adopting a
22 comprehensive, consistent and systematic approach to health issues and
23 concern to complement the state-of-the-art technology;

24 b. To further enhance local autonomy by granting local government units
25 full powers in the formulation of policies and by mandating the Department of
26 Health to perform tasks under Section 5 of this Act relative to the operation and
27 maintenance of hospitals and public health services under its supervision and
28 control;

1 c. To implement a program of extending technological, financial and
2 administrative assistance to local government units to support and improve the
3 provision, operation and maintenance of health facilities and equipment;

4 d. To enhance inter-agency multi-sectoral cooperation;

5 e. To enhance the capability of hospitals requiring the DOH to provide
6 each local government unit, competent physicians to assist the local chief
7 executive as may be appropriate in the monitoring of health care delivery
8 functions; and

9 f. To encourage the employment and retention of doctors in rural areas.

10 **SECTION 4. Definition of Terms.** -- The following terms shall be
11 understood in this Act to mean:

12 (1) "Hospital" refers to a place devoted primarily to the maintenance and
13 operation of facilities for the diagnosis, treatment and care of individuals
14 suffering from illness, disease, injury or deformity, or in need of obstetrical or
15 other medical and nursing care.

16 (2) "Primary Hospitals" refer to those with capabilities and facilities for
17 providing first contact emergency care and hospitalization in simple cases.

18 (3) "Secondary Hospitals" refer to those which have capabilities and
19 facilities for providing medical care to cases requiring hospitalization and the
20 expertise of physicians with training of not less than six (6) months on certain
21 specialties.

22 (4) "Tertiary Level I Hospitals" refer to those which have capabilities for
23 providing medical care to cases requiring sophisticated diagnostic and
24 therapeutic equipment and the expertise of trained specialist and in the sub-
25 specialties.

26 (5) "Tertiary Level II Hospitals" refer to a departmentalized hospital with
27 teaching and research capabilities and accredited Residency Training Programs
28 in the fields of Surgery, Pediatrics, Medicine, OB-Gyne, EENT, Orthopedics,

1 Anesthesia and other ancillary disciplines. Dental services are part of the
2 professional services.

3 (6) "Tertiary Level III Hospitals" refer to hospitals which have been
4 particularly selected to provide tertiary hospital services, with teaching, training
5 functions and research.

6 (7) "Tertiary Level IV Hospitals" refer to a tertiary hospital with expensive
7 and sophisticated diagnostic and therapeutic facilities for a specific medical
8 problem area.

9 (8) "District Hospital" refers to the front-line hospital with capabilities and
10 facilities for providing secondary medical care to cases requiring hospitalization
11 and the expertise of trained doctors.

12 (9) "Provincial Hospital" refers to a central district hospital with its own
13 catchments area which provides at least a minimum of Tertiary Level I hospital
14 care.

15 (10) "Regional Hospital" refers to departmentalized hospital which
16 provides Tertiary Level II hospital care.

17 (11) "Medical Center" refers to a hospital which provides Tertiary Level
18 III hospital care.

19 (12) "Specialty Hospital" refers to a hospital which provides services for
20 one particular illness or disease or health medical care need, with the highest
21 medical care rendered by medical experts and using highly specialized
22 equipment for a specific medical problem area. It provides Tertiary Level IV
23 hospital care.

24 (13) "Competent physician" refers to a doctor who possesses both
25 technical and managerial knowledge or expertise in health care.

26 (14) "Local Government Units" refer to provinces, cities, municipalities,
27 barangays and other political subdivisions as may be created by law.

28 **SECTION 5. Components of the Program.** - The Program shall consist
29 of the following components:

1 a) Delineation of the role of the local government units and the
2 Department of Health. The leagues of local government units and the
3 Department of Health shall support the implementation of the Health Care
4 Delivery Modernization Program by performing the mandated tasks herein
5 defined, to wit:

6 1) The province shall be responsible for the promotive, preventive,
7 curative and rehabilitative aspects of health care delivery except in places where
8 municipal and city hospitals exist, in which case these municipal and city
9 hospitals shall be under the responsibility of the local government unit
10 concerned. They shall also undertake an annual review of health program in
11 their areas of jurisdiction.

12 2) The District Health Board shall be responsible for the recruitment of
13 volunteer barangay health workers, who shall be entitled to monthly honorarium
14 and other benefits as provided for by law.

15 3) The Department of Health shall, in addition to the powers vested in it
16 under existing laws, be responsible for the following:

17 (3.1) Health care delivery higher than or more sophisticated than
18 that provided by local government units;

19 (3.2) Provide each province or qualified cities or municipalities
20 competent physicians to assist the local chief executive as may be
21 appropriate in the management and monitoring of devolved health
22 care functions;

23 (3.3) Upper tertiary hospital care where the expertise in the different
24 organ specific medical-surgical specialty is needed;

25 (3.4) Operation and maintenance of medical centers, including those
26 in Metro Manila, and specialty hospitals whose functions are
27 to provide tertiary expertise: Provided, however, That specialty
28 hospital with original charter shall continue to be governed by its
29 own charter.

- 1 (3.5) Supervise the operation of the more sophisticated organ
2 specific medical centers;
- 3 (3.6) Initiate and assist in the establishment of a residency training
4 program with the participation of the private practicing specialist,
5 as much as practicable, as consultants in each provincial hospital;
6 and
- 7 (3.7) Provide doctors in rural communities under its program of
8 doctors to doctorless areas, who shall be assigned by the local
9 chief executive as may be appropriate to qualified communities.

10 The Department of Health is hereby authorized to create positions of, and
11 provide the necessary funding, as a national aid to local government units, for
12 doctors to doctorless areas including their incentives and benefits, in addition to
13 those granted under existing laws, to wit:

14 (1) Hazard allowance in an amount to be determined by the district
15 hospital health board of the local government unit concerned;

16 (2) Subsistence allowance equivalent to the meals they take in the
17 course of their duty which shall be computed in accordance with the prevailing
18 circumstances as determined by the local government unit concerned; and

19 (3) Automatic promotion to the position of Medical Specialist I or to the
20 next higher rank, as the case may be, under the Revised Compensation
21 Classification System.

22 The doctors to the doctorless areas shall be entitled to incentives and
23 benefits to be provided under this Act by other government agencies, to wit:

24 (1) Free legal representation and consultation services shall be
25 immediately provided by the Public Defenders Office in cases of coercion,
26 interference, and other civil, criminal and administrative cases filed by or against
27 such doctors arising out of or in connection with the performance of their duties
28 as such; and

1 (2) Scholarship benefits in the form of tuition fees in state colleges or
2 universities to be granted to their legitimate children.

3 (3) Strengthening the Capability of the Provincial Hospitals. – The
4 Program shall develop the provincial hospitals into a responsive, efficient and
5 modern hospital with the capability to handle tertiary *level* I to II hospital care. In
6 pursuance thereto, the following necessary steps must be undertaken, to wit:

7 1) The establishment of a residency training program and tertiary diagnostic
8 facilities with, as much as practicable, the participation of the private sector or
9 private specialist practitioner as consultants in each provincial hospital subject to
10 the following conditions:

11 a) Consultants, who shall be accredited to practice in the hospital, may
12 be entitled to honorarium to be determined by the district hospital health board;

13 b) Provincial hospital residents participating in the residency training
14 program shall not be permanent employees but shall be considered employed
15 for the whole duration of the Residency training period; and

16 c) Participants in the Residency training program shall be given
17 preference in case of reemployment as residents of district hospitals and shall
18 occupy the position of Medical Officer IV.

19 2) The abolition of regional hospitals and offices. All equipment, records, and
20 other assets of both the regional offices and hospitals shall be transferred to the
21 Regional Medical Center. Personnel shall be absorbed by the Medical Centers
22 or assigned to the provincial government to assist the governors in managing
23 the devolved functions; *Provided*, That the rights accorded to such personnel
24 pursuant to the civil service law, rules and regulations, shall not be impaired.

25 3) The improvement of each provincial hospital. The provincial government
26 shall strive to establish diagnostic centers and to provide modern and quality
27 equipment to improve the capabilities of the provincial hospitals pursuant to its
28 modernization objectives: *Provided*, That, the acquisition of new equipment shall
29 be synchronized with the phasing out of obsolete major equipment. *Provided*,

1 *further*, That, the acquisition of new equipment shall be subject to the laws on
2 public bidding.

3 c) Establishment of the District Hospital, Medical Center and Specialty
4 Hospitals Health Boards. - This component of the Program is geared towards
5 the realization of a genuine local autonomy. In furtherance, thereof, there shall
6 be established a district hospital, medical center, including those in Metro
7 Manila, and specialty hospital health boards.

8 The composition of the district, medical center and specialty hospital
9 health boards shall, as they are applicable, be as follows:

10 Chairman: (1) For district hospital, A Sangguniang Panlalawigan member
11 representing the district where the district hospital is located;

12 (2) For medical center, the Chairman of the Regional Development
13 Council. In Metro Manila, the Mayor where the medical center is located.

14 (3) For specialty hospital, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for
15 specialty hospital with original charter; the Secretary of Health for
16 specialty hospitals under its control and supervision.

17 Vice Chairman: Chief of the District Hospitals, Medical Centers and
18 Specialty Hospitals

19 Member: (1) Representative of the Congressional District for hospitals in
20 his political district;

21 (2) Senator of the Republic for all medical centers and specialty hospitals;

22 (3) A mayor of the catchments area of the district;

23 Members common to the district hospitals, medical centers and specialty
24 hospitals health boards;

25 (1) Representative of the Philippine Hospital Association;

26 (2) Representative of the Philippine Medical Association;

27 (3) Representative from the non-government organizations involved in
28 health services;

29 (4) Representative of the religious sector;

1 (5) Representative of the private sector.

2 The Chairman, Vice Chairman and the members of the District Hospital
3 Health Board, except the Representative of the Congressional District, shall be
4 appointed by the provincial governor.

5 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Medical Center, including those
6 in Metro Manila, and specialty hospital health boards shall serve by the
7 operation of this Act without the need of any appointment.

8 The representative from the non-government organizations, religious and
9 the private sector in the medical center and specialty hospital health boards
10 shall be appointed by the Chairman of the respective health boards.

11 The powers and functions of the district hospital, medical center and
12 specialty hospital health boards shall, as they are applicable, be as follows:

13 (1) To assist the provincial governor, the Secretary of Health,
14 Administrator or Chairman of the Boards of Trustees, as the case may
15 be, in the operation and management of devolved functions, medical
16 centers and specialty hospitals;

17 (2) To review and endorse the budgetary requirements of the district
18 health services, medical centers and specialty hospitals;

19 (3) To devise a mechanism for internal control;

20 (4) To enhance the participation of local government units and community
21 involvement in hospital service and public health activities;

22 (5) To screen and recommend to the Selection Board the appointment of
23 qualified applicants to fill vacant positions in the rural health units and
24 district hospitals, medical centers and specialty hospitals, as the case
25 may be;

26 (6) To deposit, in trust, all the earnings of the district hospitals and rural
27 health units derived from whatever source with the Provincial Treasurer's
28 Office or with any authorized depository banks; for medical centers and
29 specialty hospitals, with any authorized depository bank as part of their

1 General Fund;

2 (7) To determine the utilization of funds of the hospitals and medical
3 centers for the betterment of hospital health services; and

4 (8) To perform such other functions as may be deemed necessary for the
5 effective management of the rural health units, hospitals, medical centers
6 and specialty hospitals: *Provided, however,* That the Board of Trustees of
7 specialty hospitals with original charter, shall exercise the powers and
8 functions of the hospital health board under this section, in addition to the
9 powers vested in it under existing laws.

10 The Board shall meet at least once a month or as often as may be
11 necessary.

12 A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum but the
13 chairman and the vice-chairman must be present during meetings where
14 budgetary proposals are prepared or considered. Members thereof who are not
15 government officials or employees shall be entitled to necessary traveling
16 expenses and allowance chargeable against the funds of the health boards of
17 the district hospital, medical center and specialty hospitals subject to the
18 accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

19 **SEC. 6. *Period of Implementation.*** - The Program shall be implemented
20 over a period of three (3) years from the approval of this Act.

21 **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** - a) Initial Appropriations. - For the first year of
22 the implementation of this Act, the amount of One billion pesos
23 (P1,000,000,000.00), is hereby appropriated out of any funds of the National
24 Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

25 b) Continuing Appropriations. - The Department of Budget and
26 Management (DBM) is hereby mandated to include in the annual General
27 Appropriations Act the amount necessary for the implementation of this Act.

28 Other sources of funds shall from the following:

1 (1) The total cost of devolved functions to be deducted from the Internal
2 Revenue collections subject to the following principles:

3 (2) Internal revenue allotment shares be based on the total amount
4 collectible for internal revenue, including value-added tax collected by the
5 Bureau of Customs, proceeds from the sin taxes and the like;

6 (3) The cost of devolved functions shall be taken from the sixty percent
7 (60%) share of the national government;

8 (4) Twenty percent (20%) net earnings from the Philippine Amusement
9 and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR);

10 (5) Twenty percent (20%) net earnings of the Public Estate Authority;
11 and

12 (6) Loans, grants, bequest, or donations, whether from local or foreign
13 sources.

14 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Department of
15 Health (DOH) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
16 shall, in coordination with the League of Provinces, promulgate the rules and
17 regulations for the implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its
18 effectivity.

19 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, orders, decrees, rules and
20 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
21 modified accordingly.

22 **SEC. 10 . *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act shall
23 be declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provision hereof
24 which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and *effect*.

25 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
26 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

27 Approved,