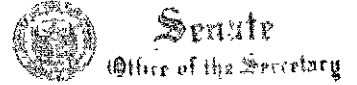


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'13 JUL 23 P1:33

SENATE

S.B. No. 1080

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced By Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, as amended, declares it a policy of the State to "afford full protection to labor, local and overseas" and to "provide adequate and timely social, economic, and legal services to Filipino migrant workers." Thus, the State recognizes that the protection of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) also contemplates the provision of social services.

Incidentally, Executive Order No. 195 institutionalized a Philippine Medical Care Program for OFWs as a means of extending social services to OFWs. While E.O. 195 was issued prior to the enactment of the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, it is clear that the State recognizes the need to provide services to promote and protect the health of OFWs and their dependents. The State policy to provide social services to OFWs rightly justifies a stronger thrust towards providing health services for OFWs and their dependents.

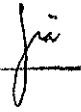
Based on statistics, about 42% of all repatriated OFWs return to the Philippines needing medical attention or hospital confinement for various physical or mental illnesses sustained abroad. The present package of services under the Medical Care Program for OFWs and their dependents is limited to curative medical services. This bill aims to complement these services with preventive, promotive, diagnostic, and rehabilitative programs. Thus, a comprehensive health care for OFWs and their dependents can be achieved.

To ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of quality health care to our migrant workers and their dependents, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator *ji*

'13 JUL 23 P1:33

SENATE

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S.B. No. 1080

Introduced By Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "OFW HOSPITAL
2 **ACT OF 2013**".

3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to adopt an
5 integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour
6 to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to its citizens at an
7 affordable cost. Further, the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and
8 overseas. Toward this end, the State shall protect the interest and promote the well-
9 being of Filipino overseas contract workers including their families and dependents
10 through the provision of social and welfare services.

11

12 **SEC. 3. Creation of a Special Hospital.** - To carry out the above policy, a
13 migrant workers' hospital to be named as the OWWA MIGRANT WORKERS
14 HOSPITAL is hereby created under the supervision and control of the Overseas
15 Workers Welfare Administration.

16

17 **SEC. 4. Objectives.** - To ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability
18 of quality health care, the OFW HOSPITAL shall:

19 a. Provide for comprehensive/total health care service to all migrant
20 workers who are OWWA contributors and their legal dependents;

- 21 b. Complement the existing package of services under the Medical Care
22 Program so as to include preventive, promotive, diagnostic, curative, and
23 rehabilitative programs;
- 24 c. Conduct medical examination to ensure the physical and mental
25 capability of all would-be overseas Filipino workers duly covered by an
26 approved job order; and
- 27 d. Set-up a system that will effectively monitor the condition of patients and
28 to generate relevant information/ data in aid of policy formulation.
- 29

30 **SEC. 5. Administration.** - Upon effectivity of this Act, the OWWA MIGRANT
31 WORKERS HOSPITAL shall be administered by a Board of Directors consisting of:

- 32 a.) The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment as *Ex-Officio*
33 Chairman;
- 34 b.) The Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration as
35 *Ex-Officio* Vice-Chairman;
- 36 c.) The Secretary of the Department of Health as *Ex-Officio* member;
- 37 d.) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development as
38 *Ex-Officio* member;
- 39 e.) The Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment
40 Administration as *Ex-Officio* member; and
- 41 f.) Two (2) representatives from the OFW sector (one land based and one sea
42 based) as members.
- 43

44 The two (2) representatives from the OFW Sector shall be appointed by the
45 President of the Republic of the Philippines from a list of nominees prepared by
46 the Ex-Officio Chairman to serve for a term of three (3) years without
47 reappointment.

48

49 **SEC. 6. Responsibility and Powers.** - The Board of Directors of the OWWA
50 MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL shall have the following responsibilities and
51 powers:

- 52 a) To formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the
53 OWWA MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL's objectives and purposes as
54 enunciated in Section 4 of this Act;

- 55 b) To enter into agreements and contracts in connection with its
56 establishment, maintenance, operations, and objectives;
57 c) To issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and purposes of
58 this Act; and
59 d) To perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.
60

61 **SEC. 7. *Appropriation.*** - An amount necessary for the establishment and initial
62 operation of the OWWA MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL shall be taken out from the
63 funds of the Medical Care Program for Overseas Contract Workers and the Overseas
64 Workers Welfare Administration. Subsequently, its appropriation shall be included in
65 the Annual General Appropriations Act.
66

67 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree, issuance, executive
68 order, letter of instruction, rules or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this
69 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
70

71 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act is held
72 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
73 force and effect.
74

75 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
76 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
77

78 **Approved,**