

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 1671

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA


EXPLANATORY NOTE

The government's efforts to reform the health sector have been set in place through several innovative projects and programs aimed at providing the people with comprehensive health services. The participation of local government units has been tapped to make health care services more affordable and accessible.

However, the fact remains that sophisticated and advanced hospital and medical equipment and facilities are found in highly urbanized cities, so much so that patients from the rural areas have to travel all the way to these urban cities just to avail themselves of advanced medical treatment. The high costs of treatment and the additional travel expenses are financially draining particularly for patients that need treatment on a regular and sustained basis. This is especially true for patients who are suffering from kidney disorder who have to undergo dialysis treatment regularly.

In consonance with the constitutional mandate to make health services available to all the people at affordable cost, this bill requires all national, regional and provincial government hospitals to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their respective hospital in order that dialysis treatment will be available and accessible to the people especially those in the rural areas in a cost effective manner. Moreover, this bill requires that dialysis treatment should be provided to indigent patients, free of charge.

For more efficient delivery of health care services to the Filipino people, the immediate approval of this proposed measure is earnestly urged.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator



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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD
OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE
DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**Dialysis
Center Act**".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - it is the declared policy of the State to
improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure hospital
facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the people.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following
terms shall mean:

- a) "**Secretary**" shall refer to the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- b) "**National Government Hospital**" shall refer to a hospital operated and
maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any
department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- c) "**Regional Government Hospital**" shall refer to a hospital operated and
maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any
department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- d) "**Provincial Government Hospital**" shall refer to a hospital operated and
maintained either partially or wholly by the provincial government or other
political subdivision, or by any department division, board or other agency
thereof; and,
- e) "**Indigent Patient**" shall refer to a patient whose combined annual family
income does not exceed Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) annually.

**SEC. 4. Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis
Ward or Unit.** - Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all national,

regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their hospital. The dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies.

SEC. 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.* - Dialysis treatment in all national, regional and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients as defined in Section 3 (E) hereof.

SEC. 6. *Penalty.* - Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* - Such amount as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital's annual appropriations.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, section, or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision hereof shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,