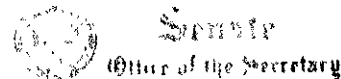


CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



15 MAR 12 P3:20

SENATE

S. B. No. 2692

RECEIVED BY: lv

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FRANKLIN M. DRILON

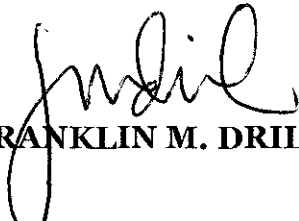
AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF THE SOUTH COTABATO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Pursuant to the constitutional mandate of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost, this proposed measure seeks to establish the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato to widen access of 4.11 million constituents in the region to medical services and modern health facilities.

The Department of Health in Region XII presently runs the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center in Cotabato City but most of its patients come from said City and Maguindanao province, which is part of the Autonomous Region in the Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). This has meant that patients from most parts of Region XII who need special medical attention are brought to Davao City instead of Cotabato City due to distance and security concerns, effectively rendering SOCCSKSARGEN with no regional health facility of its own.

A feasibility study provided by the Provincial Health Officer and DOH Center for Health Development (CHD) –XII has recommended the establishment of a separate regional health facility for Region XII. Economic and public health benefits are likely to proceed from the establishment of the Soccsksargen General Hospital, according to the feasibility study. Among the expected benefits include reduced morbidity, lower mortality and savings in terms of medical expenses in the region.

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


FRANKLIN M. DRILON

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

SEC. 1. **SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital Establishment** – The SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital in the Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato, is hereby created to serve as the regional health facility of the Department of Health in Region XII or the SOCCSKSARGEN area.

SEC. 2. **Establishment Plan.** – The establishment of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital shall be carried out by the Central Office of the Department of Health in consultation and coordination with local government officials and the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA).

SEC. 3. **Appropriations.** – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital, the initial funding of which shall be charged against its current year's appropriations. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. **Supplementary Funding.** – The Center for the Health Development XII Regional Director and the Chief of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital, in coordination with concerned local government units, shall also draw up a mechanism for sourcing supplementary funds to augment the operations of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital.

SEC. 5. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,