




'SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

'16 SEP 14 P1:44

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S.B. NO. 1143

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS  
BARAQUEL

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AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET  
AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY OF ITS RETAINED HOSPITALS  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the devolution of health services, there are now only 70 DOH-retained public hospitals nationwide, of which 51 are considered general hospitals while 19 are specialty hospitals. These DOH hospitals complement the devolved district and provincial hospitals, as well as private hospitals, in providing health care services to millions of Filipinos.

Often serving patients beyond their allowed bed capacity, these hospitals are constrained by lack of adequate manpower and resources to fully provide the quality of health care their patients deserve.

As a result of the mismatch between their authorized bed capacity and hospital bed occupancy rate, which according to one study averages at 121%, it is not surprising to hear stories of patients spilling over in public hospital hallways or of 2 patients sharing one bed.

Under current regulations, a DOH hospital can only increase its bed capacity via legislation. As such, adjusting the bed capacity of a public hospital to be able to serve patients better has to compete with thousands of proposed bills in Congress and more often than not, these do not get approved or once approved, the need has already changed.

This is what the bill seeks to address. It authorizes the Department of Health to increase the bed capacity of its retained hospitals and allows it to promulgate guidelines that will be used in evaluating and approving changes in bed capacity. While allowing it to increase bed capacity, it also allows the Department to right-size the authorized bed capacity of DOH retained hospitals, as necessary.

By allowing the Department of Health to administratively set and approve the authorized bed capacity of its hospitals, we remove one barrier that impedes the efficient delivery of health service.

It is for these reasons that approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

*Ana Theresa "Risa" Hontiveros Baraquell*  
ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL  
*Senator*



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**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET  
AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY OF ITS RETAINED HOSPITALS  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "DOH Hospital Bed  
2 Capacity Rationalization Act of 2016."  
3

4 **SECTION 2.** *Purpose, Scope, and Coverage.* This Act shall streamline the process for  
5 approving changes in the authorized bed capacity of all DOH retained hospitals.  
6

7 **SECTION 3.** *Authority to Approve.* Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to  
8 adjust and approve the authorized bed capacity of its retained hospitals. Thereafter,  
9 the DOH shall, by administrative or department order, increase, decrease, or  
10 maintain the bed capacity of its retained hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that it  
11 shall issue and promulgate, within six months, after the enactment of this law.  
12

13 **SECTION 4.** *Appropriations.* Amounts necessary to implement and carry out the  
14 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of  
15 Health.  
16

17 **SECTION 5.** *Annual Report to Congress* - The Department of Health shall provide  
18 Congress, through the House and Senate Committees on Health, an annual report on  
19 hospitals with approved bed capacity changes, along with the necessary funding  
20 requirements.  
21

22 **SECTION 6.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)* - The Department of Health  
23 shall come up with the IRR, within three (3) months after the law's effectivity.  
24

25 **SECTION 7.** *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
26 regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,  
27 amended or modified accordingly.  
28

29 **SECTION 8.** *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
30 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
31 circulation.  
32

33 Approved,