

SENATE

'17 SEP 13 P5:18

S.B. No. 1586

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

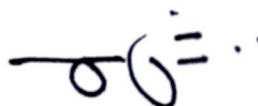
Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution provides that the "*State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.*"

During the deliberations and subsequent approval of the bill by both houses of the previous Congress, it was reported that DOH Region XII presently runs the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center in Cotabato City where most of its patients come from Cotabato 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. Moreover, by virtue of Executive Order No. 304 which was promulgated in 2004, which declared Koronadal City as the seat of administration of Region XII, a legal basis for pressing the need to establish a regional health facility in the Province of South Cotabato has since become existent for the past twelve (12) years.

This bill, which was introduced during the 16th Congress, seeks to establish the SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL in the Municipality of Surallah, South Cotabato to improve access to medical services and a modern health facility for the 4.11 million Filipinos in Regional XII.

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



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

1 SECTION 1. There shall be established a general hospital in the
2 Municipality of Surallah, Province of South Cotabato, to be known as the
3 SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital.

4 SEC. 2. The Department of Health (DOH) in consultation and
5 coordination with local government officials concerned and the Mindanao
6 Development Authority (MinDA), shall promulgate the necessary rules and
7 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

8 SEC. 3. The provincial government of South Cotabato shall provide
9 funding for the establishment of the SOCCSKSARGEN General Hospital in
10 the Municipality of Surallah, South Cotabato. The Secretary of Health shall
11 include in the Department's programs, subsidy support for the capital outlay
12 requirements of the said general hospital

13 SEC. 4. The DOH Regional Director of the Center for Health
14 Development, Region XII, and the Chief of the SOCCSKSARGEN General
15 Hospital, in coordination with the concerned local government units, shall
16 also draw up a mechanism for sourcing supplementary funds to augment its
17 operations.

18 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in the
19 Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

20 Approved,