

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1654

18 JAN 22 P3:14

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT

CONVERTING THE BICOL SANITARIUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CABUSAO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, INTO A GERIATRIC AND GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE "BICOL REGIONAL GERIATRIC MEDICAL CENTER", UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15 Article II of the Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Consequently, and as a counterpart proposal in the Senate of House Bill No. 6551, this bill seeks to convert the Bicol Sanitarium, located in the Municipality of Cabusao in the Province of Camarines Sur, into a geriatric and general medical center - the first of its kind in the country's public health service.

Moreover, the Department of Health ordered the expansion of the legal mandate of all existing sanitarium, including that of the Bicol Sanitarium, because of the decline in leprosy cases in the country,

The bill also provides the upgrading of the hospital's existing facilities and professional health care services by increasing its bed capacity to 450 and the number of its medical personnel. It shall continue to operate as a general medical center while continuing to manage and support the leprosy eradication program of the Department of Health especially in Bicol.

This measure converting the Bicol Sanitarium into a geriatric and general medical center to be known as the Bicol Regional Geriatric Medical Center (BRGMC) aims to provide quality, affordable, accessible, comprehensive and exceptional geriatric healthcare, including other health care services to the other members of the population particularly in the Bicol Region.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the proposed measure is earnestly requested.



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

Section 1. The Bicol Sanitarium located in the Municipality of Cabusao, Province of Camarines Sur, is hereby converted into a 450-bed geriatric and general medical center to be known as the Bicol Regional Geriatric Medical Center (BRGMC) to serve the senior citizen and their immediate families.

Sec. 2. The existing hospital facilities and professional health care services of the BRGMC are hereby upgraded and increased to conform with and be commensurate to the increase in bed capacity. The facility will continuously work to manage and support the leprosy eradication program of the Department of Health especially in Bicol. The number of medical personnel shall be correspondingly increased.

Sec. 3. All personnel, medical and non-medical records, assets and properties, including land and buildings, facilities and equipment, sites, and improvements thereof, obligations, funds and appropriations of the Bicol Sanitarium, including the Bicol Skin Clinic located in Legazpi, Province of Albay are hereby transferred to the BRGMC.

Sec. 4. The Department of Health, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Budget and Management and the DOH Regional Health Office V, shall promulgate the conversion plan and organizational and staffing pattern of the said specialty medical center.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the BRGMC for a period of not more than three (3) years, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations for the Bicol Sanitarium. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 6. The Department of Health, through its Regional Health Office V Director and Medical Center Chief, in coordination with concerned national and local government units, shall also prepare the mechanisms for sourcing supplementary funds to augment the operations if the BGRMC.

Sec 7. Act 1711 of the Philippine Commission on the establishment of the Bicol Treatment Station in Legazpi City, Albay, is hereby repealed. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,