

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S. No. 73

'19 JUL -1 P2 :14

RECEIVED

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
(OFWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have been hailed as modern day heroes. Along with other economic stimulants, the pouring-in of remittances from the more than 2.3 million OFWs all over the world contributes a lot to the functioning and survival of our economy. Last year, total remittance sent by OFWs reached an all-time high at 235.9 billion pesos.

We cannot take for granted, therefore, the indispensable role played by our OFWs. As such, aside from their skills and experiences, an important capital that they have to possess is their health. Long hours of work, different climate and environment coupled by emotional stress caused by being away from home and family raise the risk of sickness and bad health. The most common ailments or health problems suffered by OFWs are pneumonia, hypertension, cancer, trauma, liver disease, depression, among others. Sadly, however, the existing medical package of services under the Medical Care Program for OFWs pursuant to Executive Order No. 195 series of 1994 has a very limited scope.

In this light, it has become imperative for the State to protect the interest and promote the well-being of Filipino overseas workers including their families and dependents through the provision of social welfare services. This bill seeks to establish a special hospital for Overseas Filipino Workers and their dependents which should be under the supervision and control of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). It shall be part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, high quality healthcare and other social services available to our OFWs and their dependents.

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


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.



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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS
(OFWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
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 “Migrant Workers
2 Hospital Act of 2019.”

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adopt an
5 integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall
6 endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all
7 people at affordable cost. Further, the State shall protect the interest and promote
8 the well-being of Filipino overseas workers including their families and dependents
9 through the provision of social welfare services.

10
11 Sec. 3. *Creation of Special Hospital.* – To carry out the above policy, there is
12 hereby created a special hospital with at least tertiary level of care to be known as
13 the Migrant Workers Hospital which shall be under the supervision and control of
14 the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

15

1 Sec. 4. *Objectives.* – To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability
2 of quality health care, Migrant Workers Hospital shall:

- 3 a) Provide for a comprehensive/total health care services to all migrant
4 workers who are OWWA contributors including their legal dependents;
- 5 b) Complement the existing package services under the Health Care
6 Program so as to include preventive, promotive, diagnostic, curative
7 and rehabilitative programs;
- 8 c) Conduct medical examination to ensure the physical and mental
9 capability of all the would-be overseas Filipino workers duly covered by
10 an approved job order;
- 11 d) Set-up a system that will effectively monitor the condition of patients
12 and to generate relevant information and data in aid of policy
13 formulation.

14
15 Sec. 5. *Administration and Composition of Board Members.* – Upon the
16 effectivity of this Act, the powers and the administration of the Migrant Workers
17 Hospital shall be vested in a Board, which is composed of the following members:

- 18
19 a) The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment as *Ex-*
20 *Officio* Chairman;
- 21 b) The Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration as
22 *Ex-Officio* Vice Chairman;
- 23 c) The Secretary of the Department of Health as *Ex-Officio* Member;
- 24 d) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development
25 as *Ex-Officio* member;
- 26 e) The Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment
27 Administration as *Ex-Officio* Member;
- 28 f) Two (2) representatives from OFW sector (one from land based and
29 another from sea-based) as Members.

1 The two representatives from the OFW sector shall be appointed by
2 the President of the Republic of the Philippines from a list of nominees
3 submitted by the Ex-Officio Chairman. The representatives appointed
4 shall serve for a term of three (3) years without re-appointment.
5

6 *Sec. 6. Responsibilities and Powers.* – The Board of Directors of the Migrant
7 Workers Hospital shall have the following responsibilities and powers:
8

- 9 a) To formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the
10 Migrant Worker’s Hospital’s objectives and purposes as enunciated in
11 Section 4 of this Act;
12 b) To enter into agreements and contracts in connection with its
13 establishment, maintenance, operations and objectives;
14 c) To issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and purposes
15 of this Act;
16 d) To perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by
17 law.

18 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board shall adopt rules
19 and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from
20 the date of its approval.
21

22 *Sec. 8. Appropriation.* – In addition to the seed money held in trust by the
23 OWWA, the National Government shall contribute the amount necessary for the
24 establishment and initial operation of the Migrant Workers Hospital which shall be
25 taken from the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Subsequently, its
26 appropriation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).
27

28 *Sec. 9. Assistance from Government Offices, etc.* – The Migrant Workers
29 Hospital may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of

1 the Government, including government owned or controlled corporations, for such
2 assistance as it may need in the pursuit of its purposes and objectives.

3
4 Sec. 10. *Exemption from Donor's Taxes, Customs and Tariff Duties.* – All
5 donations, contributions or endowments which may be made by persons or entities
6 to the Hospital, and the importation of medical equipment and machineries, spare
7 parts and other medical equipment not hereto mentioned used solely and
8 exclusively for the Migrant Workers Hospital shall be exempt from income, gift,
9 direct and indirect taxes, wharfage fees and other charges and restrictions.

10
11 Sec. 11. *Annual Report.* – The Migrant Workers Hospital shall render to the
12 President of the Philippines, to the Senate and to the House of Representatives an
13 annual report of its activities and recommendations.

14
15 Sec. 12. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* – A Congressional Oversight
16 Committee, herein after referred to as the "Committee," is hereby constituted in
17 accordance with the provisions of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of the
18 Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources
19 Development and the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on
20 Overseas Workers Affairs and four (4) additional members from each House to be
21 designated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives respectively. The Committee shall, among others, in aid of
23 legislation:

- 24
25 1. Monitor and ensure the proper implementation of this Act;
26 2. Review the performance of the hospital; and
27 3. Review the proper implementation of the programs of the Hospital
28 and the use of its fund.

29 In furtherance of the herein above cited objectives, the Committee is
30 empowered to require the hospital to submit all pertinent information including but

1 not limited to its performance data and its annual audited financial statement
2 certified by the Commission on Audit.

3

4 Sec. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
5 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
6 provisions hereof.

7

8 Sec. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules
9 and regulations or part thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this
10 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

11

12 Sec. 15. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
13 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of
14 general circulation.

15

16 Approved,