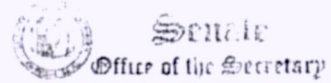


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**SENATE**

'19 JUL -8 P3:19

S. No. 287

RECEIVED BY:

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Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY CENTERS ATTACHED TO EXISTING HOSPITALS  
AND MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite the Constitutional right of the people to quality and equitable healthcare services, access to hospitals is a right that, unfortunately, is not made available to every Juan. This is due either to the hospital being inaccessible or unaffordable, or both.

Take the case of specialty hospitals. At present, these specialty hospitals are located mostly in Metro Manila. This has resulted in its inaccessibility and unaffordability. Seeking treatment and check-up in these Manila-based hospitals puts, not just the patient, but also their immediate family members, in a very challenging position. Their accrued disbursement for transportation and accommodation, as well as unprecedented expenses, make their inelastic and tight finances too complex to stretch.

This proposed measure aims to bridge the existing huge disparity of accessibility to specialized healthcare services by establishing specialty centers in DOH hospitals and medical centers. These specialty centers will provide the patients

and their families a cost-efficient spending for their medical condition. Hence, this would translate to better access to specialized health services.

The immediate passage of this bill is a fulfilment of our promise to provide quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare services to every Juan. In view thereof, the approval of the same is earnestly requested.

  
**PIA S. CAYETANO**

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**AND MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Specialty Centers*  
2 *in DOH Hospitals and Medical Centers Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and  
4 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among  
5 them. In furtherance of this policy, the State shall provide and deliver accessible  
6 health services for the people.

7 Sec. 3. *Specialty Centers* – The Department of Health (DOH) shall establish  
8 Specialty Centers within DOH hospitals and medical centers.

9 The creation of Specialty Centers shall increase the availability and  
10 accessibility of specialized healthcare nationwide to ensure equitable healthcare for  
11 all and shall address the medical needs of patients with diseases of a particular  
12 organ or group of organs, and the healthcare needs of a particular group, such as  
13 children, women, or the elderly.

14 Sec. 4. *Criteria for the Establishment of Specialty Centers.* – The upgrade,  
15 expansion, relocation, renovation, and rehabilitation of DOH hospitals and medical  
16 centers for the establishment of Specialty Centers shall adhere to guidelines set by

1 the DOH on planning and prioritizing health facilities based on, but not limited to,  
2 the following criteria:

- 3 (a) Evidence of the health needs and demands, including disease burdens,  
4 in the catchment populations of the DOH facilities, in consultation with  
5 concerned stakeholders;
- 6 (b) Existing health goods and services provision of the DOH facilities in  
7 comparison to specialized healthcare standards developed in  
8 consultation with specialized healthcare providers;
- 9 (c) Appropriate level of specialized healthcare provider role in the  
10 continuum of care, including roles of the DOH facilities as referral for  
11 province-wide and city-wide healthcare provider networks;
- 12 (d) Availability of competent health human resources for specialized  
13 healthcare developed in coordination with the Civil Service Commission  
14 (CSC), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and concerned  
15 DOH facilities; and
- 16 (e) Operational and financial performance of the DOH facilities, including  
17 accreditation to avail of specialized healthcare packages from the  
18 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

19 *Sec. 5. Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP).* – The DOH shall  
20 include the plans for the establishment of Specialty Centers in DOH hospitals and  
21 medical centers in the PHFDP, which serves as a guide for investments funded by  
22 the national government to rationalize the distribution of capacity and capability of  
23 health facilities.

24 All government health facilities shall formulate their development plans  
25 consistent with the PHFDP in order to access capital outlay investment through the  
26 Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the DOH.

27 *Sec. 6. Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Health shall include in the  
28 Department's program the establishment and operationalization of the Specialty  
29 Centers, the funding of which shall be included in the budget of the DOH under the  
30 annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

31 *Sec. 7. Implementation.* – The DOH, in consultation with the heads of DOH  
32 hospitals and medical centers and other concerned agencies, shall formulate,

1 identify, and promulgate the implementing guidelines, rules and regulations  
2 necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

3 The DOH, in coordination with the CSC and DBM, shall develop organizational  
4 structures and staffing standards for the types and levels of Specialty Centers.

5 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
6 regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this  
7 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
9 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,