


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



SENATE

'19 AUG -5 P5:25

S.B. NO. 863

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

**AN ACT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET AND APPROVE THE
BED CAPACITY OF ALL DOH 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.

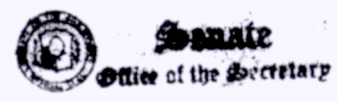
Under current regulations, a DOH hospital can only increase its bed capacity via legislation. As such, adjusting the bed capacity of a public hospital to be able to serve patients better has to compete with thousands of proposed bills in Congress and more often than not, these do not get approved or 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, in consideration of complementing the performance of city-wide and provincial health systems as mandated by Republic Act 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act, as well as the modernization and development of all other government health care facilities.

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.

Risa Montiveros - Las Vegas
RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator



SENATE

'19 AUG -5 P5:25

S. B. No. 863

RECEIVED BY:

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY OF ALL DOH 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 2019."
3

4 **SECTION 2. Purpose, Scope, and Coverage.** This Act shall streamline the
5 process for approving changes in the authorized bed capacity of all DOH retained
6 hospitals.
7

8 **SECTION 3. Authority to Approve.** Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to
9 adjust and approve the authorized bed capacity of its retained hospitals.
10 Thereafter, the DOH shall, by administrative or department order, increase,
11 decrease, or maintain the bed capacity of its retained hospitals, subject to
12 specific guidelines that it shall issue and promulgate, within six months, after the
13 enactment of this law.
14

15 **SECTION 4. Appropriations.** Amounts necessary to implement and carry out
16 the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the
17 Department of Health.
18

19 **SECTION 5. Annual Report to Congress** - The Department of Health shall
20 provide Congress, through the House and Senate Committees on Health, an
21 annual report on hospitals with approved bed capacity changes, along with the
22 necessary funding requirements.
23

24 **SECTION 6. Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP).** - The
25 Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's programs the funding
26 requirements for the adjustment in bed capacity and service capability of each
27 DOH hospital in accordance with the PHFDP and the hospital's
28 modernization/development plan, the funding of which shall be included in the
29 annual General Appropriations Act.
30

31 The DOH shall develop the PHFDP to guide the modernization/development plans
32 of all government health facilities, and in order to access capital outlay

1 investment through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH and
2 other national government capital outlay investment mechanisms.

3
4 **SECTION 7.** Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) - The Department of
5 Health shall come up with the IRR, within three (3) months after the law's
6 effectivity.

7
8 **SECTION 8.** *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
9 regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
10 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11
12 **SECTION 9.** *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
14 circulation.

15
16 Approved,