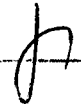


20 APR 16 AM 4:48

**SENATE**

**S. No. 1425**

RECEIVED 

---

**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

---

**AN ACT  
TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A STANDARD UPGRADE AND MODERNIZATION OF  
REGIONAL HOSPITALS TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH REGIONAL CENTER OF  
EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH CARE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The novel Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic which crippled the health systems across the world, even those of the developed countries, due to rapid transmission and treacherous nature of infection, has offered us an opportunity to take a closer and a more serious look at our public health care systems.

Once again, grave limitations of our health facilities came to light – scarce hospital beds to accommodate patients, insufficient number of medical and health professionals to properly attend to the sick, and inadequate equipment and laboratories to support our doctors and nurses in the conduct of their duty.

As of 14 April 2020, the Department of Health reported 5,223 COVID-19 cases nationwide. As experts believe that the number of cases will still go up and has yet to reach its peak, hospitals are bracing for the worst.

It is high time that the national government initiate a massive upgrading and modernization of our public hospitals across the country, beginning with our regional health facilities, to arm them with the necessary and satisfactory infrastructure, equipment, manpower and training.

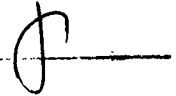
This bill aims to provide the best health care service possible to the people, especially those outside Metro Manila, by establishing fully operational and world class regional hospitals which will also function as a Center of Excellence for Health Care. In consonance with intent of the landmark Universal Health Care Act, this measure seeks to strengthen the government's resolve in providing quality, accessible and affordable health service to all Filipinos.

In this light, the immediate approval of this bill is highly recommended.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

20 APR 16 AM 4:40

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 1425**

RECORDED 

---

**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

---

**AN ACT**  
**TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A STANDARD UPGRADE AND MODERNIZATION OF**  
**REGIONAL HOSPITALS TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH REGIONAL CENTER OF**  
**EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH CARE**

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

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Institution of*  
2           *Regional Center of Excellence for Health Care Act.*"

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to adopt an  
4           integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall be  
5           available and accessible to all the people at affordable cost. Towards this end,  
6           reforms shall be introduced and implemented within the Philippine health delivery  
7           system that must be available, accessible and affordable in order to achieve the  
8           common objective of universal health care for Filipinos.

9           Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the terms enumerated  
10          below shall have the following meaning:

11          (a) "*Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Laboratory System*" - shall refer to a  
12          laboratory facility that provides the diagnosis of disease using laboratory  
13          testing of blood and other bodily fluids, tissues and microscopic evaluation  
14          of individual cells. The laboratory testing shall cover the following areas:

15          (1) Anatomic pathology, which includes histopathology, cytopathology, and  
16          electron microscopy, and

1 (2) Clinical pathology, which typically includes – Clinical Microbiology,  
2 Clinical Chemistry, Hematology, Blood Bank, and Molecular diagnostics  
3 or DNA testing.

4 (b) "*Angiogram*" – refers to a diagnostic procedure that outlines blood vessels,  
5 usually arteries, in various areas in the body that is used in identifying  
6 narrowing or blockages in the arteries of the body.

7 (c) "*Computed Tomography (CT) Scan*" – refers to an X-ray image made  
8 using a form of tomography in which a computer controls the motion of  
9 the X-ray source and detectors, processes the data, and produces the  
10 image. The detailed images of internal organs are obtained by this type of  
11 sophisticated X-ray device can reveal anatomic details of internal organs  
12 that cannot be seen in conventional X-rays.

13 (d) "*Dialysis*" – refers to the process of removing waste products and excess  
14 fluid from the body. Dialysis is necessary when the kidneys are not able to  
15 adequately filter the blood.

16 (e) "*Dialysis Facility System*" – refers to a facility that provides treatment for  
17 chronic kidney disease.

18 (f) "*High Risk Pregnancy Unit (HRPU)*" – a unit in the hospital where women  
19 are confined, with complications arising from pregnancy, whose treatment  
20 requires constant supervision or further investigation and assessment. The  
21 unit is operated by a staff of experts such as but not limited to  
22 perinatologists, obstetricians, pediatricians, with the assistance, as  
23 needed, of other specialists. It is a fully equipped obstetric ICU that can  
24 handle high risk cases and with a corresponding high-risk neonatal ICU  
25 (NICU) to handle high risk neonates.

26 (g) "*Intensive Care Unit (ICU)*" – a hospital unit in which patients requiring  
27 close monitoring, continuous attention and intensive/critical care are kept.  
28 An ICU contains highly technical monitoring devices and equipment and is  
29 staffed by personnel trained to deliver critical care.

30 (h) "*Mammogram*" – refers to an X-ray test that produces an image of breast  
31 tissue on film. This technique called mammography, is used to visualize  
32 normal and abnormal structures within the breasts.

- 1
- 2 (i) "*Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)*" – refers to a procedure that uses a
- 3 strong magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed images of the
- 4 organs and tissues within the body.
- 5 (j) "*Medical Specialist*" – refers to a doctor of medicine that practices a
- 6 specific branch of medicine.
- 7 (k) "*Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)*" – a hospital unit containing a
- 8 variety of mechanical devices and special equipment for management and
- 9 care of premature/preterm and seriously ill newborns. The unit is staffed
- 10 by a team of neonatologists, other pediatric subspecialists, and nurses
- 11 who are highly trained in the management of medical and surgical
- 12 conditions of the newborn.
- 13 (l) "*Rehabilitation Care Facility System*" – refers to hospital facility that
- 14 provides a specialized medical care and/or rehabilitation services to
- 15 injured, sick or disabled patients, which includes speech therapy and
- 16 physical rehabilitation.
- 17 (m) "*Regional Government Hospital*" – refers to a hospital operated and
- 18 maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any
- 19 department, division, board or other agency thereof.

20 Sec. 4. *Coverage.* – The provisions of this Act shall apply specifically and

21 exclusively to Regional Hospitals with service mandate of a general hospital and at

22 least five hundred (500) authorized bed capacity and identified by the Department of

23 Health to have full operational potential to maintain and operate as a Center for

24 Excellence on Health Care Facility that provides affordable, quality, accessible and

25 efficient hospital services and health care to the general population throughout their

26 respective regions.

27 Sec. 5. *Regional Hospital Modernization Program.* – Within five (5) years

28 from the effectivity of this Act, all the DOH identified Regional Hospitals under

29 Section 4 of this Act shall be upgraded to have a minimum functional capacity of a

30 Regional Center of Excellence for Health Care that is comparable to health care

31 institution with a world class quality medical services and international standards

32 accreditations, such as but not limited to, Joint Commission International, and the

likes. In order to achieve this goal, there shall be a Regional Hospital Modernization Program to facilitate improvement and enhancement of the physical facilities, equipment and instruments, and service delivery of all the DOH identified Regional Hospitals, specifically:

(a) *Physical Facilities and Equipment and Instruments.* - At the minimum, all DOH identified Regional Hospitals shall establish, operate and maintain the following physical facilities, complete with the necessary equipment and instruments, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Isolation facilities;
- (2) General Intensive Care Unit;
- (3) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit;
- (4) Surgical Facility/Maternal Facility;
- (5) High Risk Pregnancy Unit;
- (6) Ambulatory Surgical Clinic;
- (7) Anatomic and Clinical Laboratory;
- (8) Blood Station;
- (9) Dialysis Facility;
- (10) Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Facility;
- (11) Radiologic Facilities, such as X-Ray, CT Scan, Mammogram, MRI, ECG, Angiogram, Ultrasound, and others;
- (12) Psychiatry Facility;
- (13) Nuclear Medicine Facility; and
- (14) Other necessary medical facilities as may be identified by the Department of Health.

(b) *Support staff.* - All the facilities enumerated in Section 5 (a) must have competent and trained staff, nurses, therapists, medical technicians, and/or other ancillary and support staff that can perform the highly specialized procedures required in the abovementioned facilities. Required plantilla positions for the said professional health care services for the respective regional hospitals are hereby created to conform and to be commensurate to the requirements of the facilities and services offered of the Regional Hospital.

1 (c) *Service Delivery.* – All DOH identified Regional Hospitals shall offer the  
2 services for all kinds of illnesses, diseases, injuries or deformities. It shall  
3 have certified/eligible medical specialists, to facilitate timely, efficient,  
4 affordable and accessible diagnosis and treatment. Plantilla positions for  
5 the required medical specialists are hereby created for the following areas.

6 (1) Clinical Services

- 7 (i.) Family Medicine;
- 8 (ii.) Pediatrics;
- 9 (iii.) Internal Medicine;
- 10 (iv.) Obstetrics and Gynecology; and
- 11 (v.) Surgery.

12 (2) Emergency Services

13 (3) At least one (1) Medical specialist on the following areas:

- 14 (i.) Pulmonology;
- 15 (ii.) Cardiology;
- 16 (iii.) Urology;
- 17 (iv.) Neurology;
- 18 (v.) Pathology;
- 19 (vi.) Oncology;
- 20 (vii.) Psychiatry;
- 21 (viii.) Rehabilitation Medicine; and
- 22 (ix.) Other specialists as recommended by the Department of Health.

23 (d) *Teaching and/or training hospital.* – Within three (3) years from the  
24 effectivity of this Act, all the DOH identified Regional Hospitals must be  
25 expanded to be teaching and/or training hospital with an accredited  
26 residency training program for physicians in the four (4) major specialties  
27 namely: Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Surgery.

28 *Sec. 6. Creation of Regional Hospital Modernization Commission.* – There is  
29 hereby created a Regional Hospital Modernization Commission, hereinafter referred  
30 to as the Commission, which shall be attached to the Department of Health (DOH),  
31 which shall function as the implementing body for the proper execution and for  
32 policy and coordination of the Regional Hospital Modernization Program.

1       The Commission shall be composed of seven (7) members, to wit: the  
2       Secretary of the Department of Health as ex officio chairman; a vice chairman to be  
3       appointed by the President of the Philippines; a representative from the Philippine  
4       Medical Association (PMA); two (2) representatives from other health professionals;  
5       a representative from the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP);  
6       and the Executive Director of the Commission Secretariat, all to be appointed by the  
7       President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Secretary of the  
8       Department of Health to be made on the basis of the list of nominees submitted by  
9       their respective organizations and who shall serve for a term of five (5) years. The  
10      Executive Director of the Commission Secretariat shall also be a member of the  
11      Commission.

12       The Commission shall be assisted by a Secretariat to be headed by an  
13      Executive Director and two (2) Deputy Directors, who shall be appointed by the  
14      President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the Secretary of the  
15      Department of Health.

16       The Executive Director shall have the same rank, salary, benefits, and other  
17      emoluments as that of a Department Assistant Secretary, while the Deputy Directors  
18      shall have the same rank, salary, benefits and emoluments as that of a Bureau  
19      Director. The members of the Commission representing the PMA, other health  
20      professionals, and PHAP shall have the same rank, emoluments, allowances, and  
21      other benefits as those of a Regional Hospital Director.

22       *Sec. 7. Powers and Functions of the Commission.* – The Commission shall  
23      have the following powers and functions:

- 24       (a) To act as the national consultative and advisory body to the Department  
25       of Health on matters relating to the Regional Hospital Modernization  
26       Program;
- 27       (b) To prescribe rules and criteria for the determination of the regional  
28       hospitals that will be included in the program;
- 29       (c) To formulate policies and guidelines on the required upgrade and  
30       modernization of the physical facilities, procurement of equipment and  
31       instruments, hiring and training medical specialists, nurses, therapists,  
32       technicians, and other ancillary and support staff;



1 (d) To study the upgrading and modernization plan and to determine if these  
2 are in accordance with the objective to create a health care facility with a  
3 world class quality medical services and international standards  
4 accreditations;

5  
6 (e) To undertake studies, researches, and surveys, necessary for the  
7 attainment of its functions and objectives, and to collect and compile data  
8 on the latest developments in the health care industry;

9 (f) To exercise technical and administrative supervision over the DOH  
10 identified Regional Hospital during the upgrade and modernization  
11 program and until the Regional Hospital becomes self-sufficient and self-  
12 sustaining; and

13 (g) To exercise such powers and functions as may be necessary to implement  
14 this Act.

15  
16 **Sec. 8. *Inventory/Audit of Regional Hospitals.*** – An inventory/audit of the  
17 physical facilities, equipment and instruments as well as the personnel of the  
18 Regional Hospitals shall be conducted within six (6) months from the promulgation  
19 of the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, to determine the present  
20 classification of the respective regional hospitals based on their functional capacity.  
21 The result of the audit and inventory shall be the basis of the respective upgrade  
22 and modernization plan for each DOH identified Regional Hospitals. Priority shall be  
23 given to the regional hospital that requires the most upgrade.

24 **Sec. 9. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in  
25 the Department of Health's priority the Regional Hospital Modernization Program, the  
26 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

27 **Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Department of Health  
28 (DOH) shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary  
29 to carry out the provisions of this Act.

30 **Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid  
31 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise  
32 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

1           Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
2 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation  
3 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
4 modified, or amended accordingly.

5           Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
6 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

7  
8           *Approved,*