

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
THIRD REGULAR SESSION)

6 SEP -5 AM 1:45

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. NO. 2455

Introduced by **Senator ALFREDO S. LIM**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is pathetic to note that many of our sick but indigent countrymen who are medically attended to in public hospitals and diagnosed as suffering from certain ailment and prescribed the needed medicines, are nonetheless helpless in having their illness cured because of lack of means to buy medicines as prescribed.

Medical attention without the concomittant medicines being administered to the patient is meaningless.

Again, poverty is depriving many indigent patients of the rare opportunity of medical advancement and recent discoveries on cure of diseases because the medicines are hardly affordable nay within the indigent patients' reach.

The most appropriate and quick source of funding for free medicines to indigent patients is the Internal Revenue Allotments (IRA) of local government units.

It is the bill's purpose to set aside a certain percentage of the IRA appropriation for free medicines to indigent patients in their respective localities.


ALFREDO S. LIM
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
THIRD REGULAR SESSION)

6 SEP -5 11:40

S.B. NO. 2455

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**AN ACT
REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO EARMARK A
PORTION OF THEIR INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENTS
FOR FREE MEDICINES TO INDIGENT PATIENTS IN
THEIR LOCALITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Local Governments to Earmark a Portion of IRA*
2 *for Free Medicines* – it shall be the obligation of all local
3 governments to set aside and earmark a portion of their Internal
4 Revenue Allotments (IRA) for appropriation as free medicines to be
5 distributed to the public hospitals, clinics, dispensaries or other
6 outlets to indigent patients for free in their localities.

7 SECTION 2. *Indigent Patients, defined; How Dispensed.* –
8 Indigent patients are those who have no financial means to buy
9 medicines for their personal needs as prescribed by physicians from
10 public hospitals, clinics or dispensaries; provided, however, that
11 the local government shall maintain a list confirmed by the
12 barangay officials concerned where the indigent patient resides and
13 to issue an identifying document to insure that the free medicines
14 are properly dispensed to deserving recipients; provided, further,
15 that said hospitals, clinics or dispensaries shall, as far as practicable,
16 establish their own pharmacy or outlets within their premises and

1 maintain sufficient stock or quantity and the most common
2 prescribed medicines in order to immediately provide the free
3 medicines to the indigent patients.

4 SECTION 3. *Regular Accounting* – All pharmacies or outlets
5 distributing or dispensing free medicines shall render periodic
6 accounting of such disbursement duly posted in the public bulletin
7 boards specifying the patient’s name, address, doctor prescribing
8 the medicine and the amount or cost, which shall be furnished the
9 Oversight Committee on Health of both chambers of Congress.

10 SECTION 4. *Acts Constituting Violations of this Act; Penalty* –
11 In addition to the criminal liability incurred by persons for violating
12 the Revised Penal Code or other Special laws, the following acts
13 shall constitute a crime under this Act:

14 (a) Preparing a list or certification that a patient is indigent
15 when he is not;

16 (b) Submitting, preparing or altering any document to make
17 it appear that any legitimate acquisition, purchase, disbursement or
18 distribution had been made for free medicines when in fact there is
19 none;

20 (c) Diverting, devoting for other use or purpose, using or
21 concealing the funds intended for free medicines under this Act;

1 (d) Dispensing or distributing the free medicines under this
2 Act other than to indigent patients;

3 (e) Selling or disposing of the free medicines under this Act;

4 (f) Marking up or padding the purchase cost of medicines
5 acquired under this Act; and,

6 (g) Knowingly purchasing expired medicines or those
7 expiring within one (1) year from date of purchase.

8 Those found guilty of committing any of the acts above
9 defined shall be sentenced to an imprisonment of not less than two
10 (2) years nor more than seven (7) years.

11 SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
12 (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

13 Approved.