

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

SENATE
S. No. 1867

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Realizing the need to ensure the health of the overseas contract workers and their dependents, Executive Order No. 195 has been issued to provide for a medical program for the Filipino overseas workers anchored on the policy that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, to afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, to protect the interest and promote the well-being of Filipino overseas contract workers including their families and dependents through the provision of social and welfare services.

This bill authorizing the creation of the OWWA Migrant Workers Hospital is necessitated by the fact that based on statistics, about 42% of all repatriated OCWs returned to the Philippines needing medical attention or hospital confinement for various physical or mental illnesses sustained abroad.

The present package of services under the Medical Care Program for OCWs and their dependents is limited to curative medical services. This bill aims to complement the present package to include supplementary provisions for preventive, promotive, diagnostic and rehabilitative programs so that a comprehensive health care for OCWs and their dependents can be achieved.

To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality health care to our migrant workers and their dependents, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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7 JUL 13 2007

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS CONTRACT
WORKERS (OCWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. -- This Act shall be known as the "**OFW HOSPITAL ACT OF 2007**".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. -- It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. Further, the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas. Towards this end, the State shall protect the interest and promote the well-being of Filipino overseas contract workers including their families and dependents through the provision of social and welfare services.

SEC. 3. Creation of a Special Hospital - To carry-out the above policy, a migrant workers' hospital to be named as the OWWA MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL is hereby created under the supervision and control of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

SEC. 4. Objectives, - To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality health care, the OFW HOSPITAL shall:

a. Provide for a comprehensive/total health care services to all migrant workers who are OWWA contributors and their legal dependents;

b. Complement the existing package of services under the Medical Care Program so as to include preventive, promotive, diagnostic, curative and rehabilitative programs;

c. Conduct medical examination to ensure the physical and mental capability of all the would-be overseas contract workers duly covered by an approved job order; and

d. Set-up a system that will effectively monitor the condition of patients and to generate relevant information/data in aid of policy formulation.

SEC. 5. Administration. - Upon effectivity of this Act, the OWWA MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL shall be administered by a Board of Directors consisting of:

- a.) The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment as *Ex-Officio* Chairman;
- b.) The Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration as *Ex-Officio* Vice-Chairman;
- c.) The Secretary of the Department of Health as *Ex-Officio* Member;
- d.) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development as *Ex-Officio* Member;
- e.) The Administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration as *Ex-Officio* Member; and
- f.) Two (2) representatives from OCWs Sector (one from land based and one from sea based) as Members.

The two (2) representatives from the OCWs Sector shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from a list of nominees prepared by the *Ex-Officio* Chairman to serve for a term of three (3) years without reappointment.

SEC. 6. Responsibility and Powers. -- The Board of Directors of the OWWA MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

- a) To formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the OWWA MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL'S objectives and purposes as enunciated in Section 4 of this Act;
- b) To enter into agreements and contracts in connection with its establishment, maintenance, operations and objectives;
- c) To issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Act; and
- d) To perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

SEC. 7. Appropriation. - An amount necessary for the establishment, initial operations of the OWWA MIGRANT WORKERS HOSPITAL shall be taken out from the funds of the Medical Care Program for Overseas Contract Workers and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. Subsequently, its appropriation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - Any law, Presidential Decree, Issuance, Executive Order, Letter of Instruction, rules or regulations inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such sections or parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,