

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 JUL -7 P2:22

SENATE

S.B. No. 92

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
OFFERING MEDICAL DEGREES NATIONWIDE, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic exposed several weaknesses in our country's capability to handle and solve public health emergencies – the most glaring one being the lack of health care institutions and medical professionals especially in areas outside of urban centers. In fact, the Department of Health (DOH), in order to augment the existing manpower of medical professionals, has constantly been recruiting healthcare workers through its emergency hiring for Human Resources for Health (HRH).

However, it is clear that our healthcare system is already at a disadvantage even before this health crisis. According to a 2020 study conducted by the University of the Philippines (UP) COVID-19 Pandemic Response Team entitled "Estimating Local Healthcare Capacity to Deal with COVID-19 Case Surge: Analysis and Recommendations," there are only 3.7 doctors per 10,000 population in the Philippines – below the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation of 10 doctors per 10,000 population. In fact, only the National Capital Region (NCR) has achieved the WHO recommendation while other regions, such as Region IV-B with only 1.8 and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) with only 0.8 doctor per 10,000 population, are barely able to fill the recommended ratio.

While 2017 data from the WHO stated that there are 6 physicians per 10,000 Filipinos, this is still below the recommended ratio and when compared to our Southeast Asian neighbors such as Vietnam (8:10,000 in 2016) and Thailand (9:10,000 in 2019).

Furthermore, the UP study also cited that the country's hospital bed per 10,000 population is only at 6.1 with the NCR having the highest ratio at 13.5 and Region IV-B with only 1 – contrary to the data from DOH which shows the ratio is at 9.4 hospital beds per 10,000 population. Hence, the data reported that six out of ten Filipinos die without seeing a medical professional is not surprising, but is certainly alarming. This dilemma has even become more evident recently, when over 80 medical societies issued a strong position stressing that the country's healthcare system has been overwhelmed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, to strengthen the country's capability to cater to the health services needs of Filipinos, the proposed measure seeks to create new hospitals which will be attached to state colleges and universities (SUCs) offering medical degree programs. In addition, these hospitals to be created within the SUCs will enable its medical students to have the proper training ground for them to fully acquire the needed skills, knowledge and experience.

With more healthcare institutions and healthcare workers to support the full implementation of Republic Act No. 11223 of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, more Filipinos – especially the underprivileged – will be able to access the needed healthcare services so as not to succumb to preventable, diagnosable, and treatable illnesses. In addition, the establishment of more hospitals will help prevent the high attrition rate of our very capable healthcare workers as there will be more hospitals to employ them. It is the goal of this measure to help achieve the prescribed ratio of medical professionals to the population as well as increase the ratio of hospital beds to the population. Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SONNY ANGARA

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



'22 JUL -7 P2 :22

SENATE
S.B. No. 92

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
OFFERING MEDICAL DEGREES NATIONWIDE, AND PROVIDING 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 and cited as the
2 “*Healthcare Facility Augmentation Act*”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The 1987 Constitution guarantees the
4 right to health of the people and mandates the State to make health services
5 available to all the people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State shall
6 empower the state colleges and universities (SUCs) in the country to contribute in
7 providing health care services to the community as well as enabling its medical
8 students to have the appropriate training ground.

9 **SEC. 3. *Establishment of Hospitals in State Colleges and Universities.***
10 – There is hereby established a hospital, with a bed capacity of not less than 50
11 beds, in every state university and college (SUC) offering a medical degree. The
12 Department of Health (DOH), through its nearest regional hospital, and in
13 coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the concerned
14 SUCs, shall provide the necessary technical assistance on the construction of said
15 hospitals to ensure conformity with the standards set by the department.

16 The management and operations of the hospital including the hiring of
17 required medical personnel shall be with the concerned SUCs: *Provided, That* to
18 ensure proper coordination with existing policies and programs of the DOH, the

1 concerned SUCs shall elect or appoint the DOH Regional Director in the governing
2 boards of the hospital: *Provided further*, That any income derived from the operation
3 of the hospital shall be retained by the concerned SUCs to answer for expenses and
4 upgrading cost of their hospitals: *Provided finally*, That hospitals established under
5 this Act as well as those already existing in SUCs shall remain operational during
6 public health emergencies including, but not limited to, outbreaks, epidemics and
7 pandemics.

8 **SEC. 4. Construction and Site of the Hospital** – After a period of
9 planning not exceeding one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Act, the hospital and
10 the necessary equipment for its operations shall be established and put in place
11 within the grounds of the concerned SUC: *Provided*, That the construction of the
12 hospital shall be completed within five (5) years after the period of planning as
13 stated under this Section.

14 **SEC. 5. Training for Medical Students** – Hospitals established under this
15 Act as well as those already existing in SUCs shall serve as the training ground for
16 medical students in the concerned SUCs: *Provided*, That graduates of the medical
17 degree programs in the concerned SUCs who availed of a government scholarship
18 program shall be required to render their return service in accordance with the
19 provisions of Republic Act No. 11509 otherwise known as the "*Doktor Para sa Bayan*
20 *Act*"

21 **SEC. 6. Reportorial Requirements.** – The concerned SUCs shall submit
22 through CHED, on an annual basis, a detailed report on the progress of the
23 implementation of this Act to the Senate Committees on Higher, Technical and
24 Vocational Education and Health and Demography, and the House Committees on
25 Higher and Technical Education and Health.

26 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
27 of this Act shall automatically be included in the annual appropriations of the SUCs
28 for the next five years upon the implementation of this Act.

29 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
30 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to
31 be in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules
2 and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or modified accordingly

4 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of the general
6 circulation.

Approved,