



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8325

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BY REPRESENTATIVES MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, GATO, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), HORIBATA, ENCISO, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, ORTEGA, SALO, RODRIGUEZ (R.), YAP (ERIC), DUTERTE, YAP (EDVIC), TULFO (J.), TULFO (R.W.), SORIANO, YAP (C.T.), VILLANUEVA, GONZALEZ, CUA, CO (E.), SALCEDA, GOMEZ, MAGSINO, SAKALURAN, ONGCHUAN, RIVERA, ZAMORA (M.C.), TAN-TAMBU, MARIÑO, ROMUALDO, RECTO, CARI, TANJUATCO, REVILLA (R.J.), VILLARICA, LAZATIN, SUAREZ, BULUT-BEGTANG, YAMSUAN, BORDADO, FLORES, ORDANES, PLEYTO, GOLEZ, MIGUEL, CO (A.N.), BROSAS, CASTRO (F.), BARBA, CRUZ (R.), ESPARES, ACIDRE, SOLON, PALMA, BOSITA, ROQUE, EMANO, GO (M.), DUJALI, TUTOR, DELOS SANTOS, TANCHAY, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, GARCIA (D.), LAGON (D.), MANQUIZ, DIONISIO, RODRIGUEZ (E.), CABREDO, LUISTRO, NISAY, TAN (K.M.), TARRIELA, AUMENTADO, CO-PILAR, MORDEN, GUTIERREZ, PEÑA, HARESCO, YU (D.G.), SINGSON (R.), MARQUEZ, CHATTO, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, LARA, CAJAYON-UY, ARROGANCIA, REYES, ALVAREZ (J.), GARCIA (M.A.), MERCADO, ROBES, PANCHO, NAVA, ARENAS, ADVINCULA, ALONTE, ANG, PUMAREN, VARGAS-ALFONSO, QUIMBO, SINGSON-MEEHAN, CASTRO (J.), DY (F.M.C.), GONZALES (A.), VIOLAGO, BAUTISTA-LIM, TY, LACSON, ABANTE, SINGSON (R.V.), LIMKAICHONG, CAMPOS, DEL MAR, CUARESMA, AQUINO, DY (F.), MATUGAS, BONGALON, LOYOLA, ALVAREZ (M.), FUENTEBELLA, ZUBIRI, UMALI, BERNOS, VERGARA, ATAYDE, GARDIOLA, BASCUG, PLAZA, TAN (J.), SALI, CRUZ (A.), BALINDONG, EUDELA, MATIBAG, LAGON (S.), CARDEMA, VERZOSA, FORTES, MACEDA, COJUANGCO (J.), AMANTE, FRESNEDI, PANALIGAN, TALLADO, VARGAS, OUANO-DIZON, YAP (C.), SANTOS, PADUANO, DAGOOC, ABALOS, COJUANGCO (M.), SUANSING (M.A.), PADIERNOS, CAGAS, SUAN, AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY, BOLILIA, LACSON-NOEL, SUANSING (H.), SALIMBANGON, TEVES (J.), PANOTES, CALDERON, CHUNGALAO, LEE, MENDOZA, TAN (S.J.), NOEL AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 607

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AS A LEVEL III HOSPITAL UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

*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 “Overseas Filipino Workers  
2 Hospital Act.”  
3

4           **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and  
5 comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods,  
6 health, and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. To this end, the State  
7 shall protect the interest and promote the well-being of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) through  
8 the provision of social welfare services in recognition of their importance and contribution to  
9 economic development and nation-building.  
10

11           **SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:  
12

13           (a) *Dependents* shall refer to any of the following:

- 1 (1) The legal spouse entitled by law to receive support from the OFW;  
2  
3 (2) The legitimate, legitimated, legally adopted, or illegitimate child who is  
4 unmarried, not gainfully employed, and has not reached twenty-one (21) years of  
5 age, or if over twenty-one (21) years of age, is congenitally incapacitated or while  
6 still a minor has been permanently incapacitated and incapable of self-support,  
7 physically or mentally; or  
8  
9 (3) The parents who are receiving regular support from the OFW;

- 10  
11 (b) *OFW* refers to a Filipino who is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a  
12 remunerated activity in a country of which the said person is not an immigrant  
13 citizen, or a permanent resident of, or is not awaiting naturalization, recognition, or  
14 admission, whether land-based or sea-based regardless of status; excluding a Filipino  
15 engaged under a government-recognized exchange visitor program for cultural and  
16 educational purposes. For purposes of this Act, a person engaged in remunerated  
17 activity covers a person who has been contracted for overseas employment but has  
18 yet to leave the Philippines, regardless of status, and includes "Overseas Contract  
19 Workers. " The term "OFW" is synonymous with "Migrant Worker. "

20  
21 **SEC. 4. *Establishment of the Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital as a Level III Hospital.***  
22 – There shall be established in the City of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga, a Level III  
23 hospital to be known as the Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital (OFWH), which shall be under  
24 the direct supervision and control of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). It shall cater  
25 primarily to the healthcare needs of OFWs and their qualified dependents, subject to the  
26 limitations under existing laws, rules, and regulations: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall  
27 prevent the OFWH from accommodating patients other than OFWs or their qualified dependents.  
28

29 The Medical Center Chief of OFWH shall, in consultation with the DMW and the  
30 Department of Health (DOH), prepare the hospital development plan to reflect the development  
31 goals of the hospital including its bed capacity and service capability. Requests for staffing  
32 requirements, capital outlay investments, and budgetary needs for operations shall be based on  
33 the hospital development plan.  
34

35 The DOH shall support the OFWH through the provision of technical assistance,  
36 extending capital outlay, and monitoring of the hospital's compliance with standards to deliver  
37 quality healthcare.  
38

39 **SEC. 5. *Purposes and Objectives.*** – The OFWH shall:

- 40  
41 (a) Provide comprehensive and total health care services to all migrant workers  
42 including Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) contributors,  
43 whether active or inactive, their legal dependents, and the general public;  
44  
45 (b) Serve as a referral facility for repatriated OFWs needing medical assistance and  
46 support while ensuring its participation in the provincial and inter-regional  
47 healthcare provider networks to allow for a seamless and coordinated referral system  
48 for the medical repatriation program in accordance with Republic Act No. 11223,  
49 otherwise known as the "*Universal Health Care Act*";  
50  
51 (c) Promote, encourage, engage in, and publish scientific research on the prevention,  
52 care, and treatment of occupational diseases common to OFWs, including the

1 underwriting of research on biological, demographic, social, economic, eugenics,  
2 physiological aspects of occupational disorders of OFWs, and conduct relevant  
3 congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;  
4

- 5 (d) Develop training programs for medical and allied medical professionals which shall  
6 focus on strengthening occupational and migrant health services in the country and  
7 the creation of specialized services;  
8
- 9 (e) Provide 24/7 telehealth services to migrant workers and their families; the service  
10 may be extended at the Philippine foreign post or the Philippine Overseas Labor  
11 Office to assist in the medical assessment and management of distressed OFWs while  
12 awaiting repatriation;  
13
- 14 (f) Establish the OFWH as a medical facility providing pre-employment medical  
15 examination for OFWs;  
16
- 17 (g) Strengthen health surveillance through the provision of a post-employment or post-  
18 arrival medical examination for OFWs, in consonance with Republic Act No. 8042,  
19 otherwise known as the "*Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995*," and  
20 the DOH's Philippine Migrant Health Program;  
21
- 22 (h) Raise public awareness and conduct a massive information drive on the prevention,  
23 treatment, and control of diseases common to OFWs, occupational health and safety,  
24 and physical fitness; and  
25
- 26 (i) Assist and support universities, research institutions, and other hospitals or medical  
27 facilities in their studies on health-related concerns of OFWs.  
28

29 **SEC. 6. Powers of the OFWH.** – The OFWH shall have the power to:  
30

- 31 (a) Acquire and hold, in any manner, property of whatever nature or description, and to  
32 dispose of such property under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance;  
33
- 34 (b) Contract and be contracted with;  
35
- 36 (c) Levy, assess and collect such fees, charges, and assessments as may be necessary or  
37 proper to support, finance, and maintain its operation;  
38
- 39 (d) Mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey, or otherwise dispose of its properties;  
40
- 41 (e) Invest in, and purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease grant, mortgage,  
42 sell, transfer or otherwise deal with, real and/or personal properties of every kind and  
43 nature, including shares of stock, bonds, notes and other evidence of indebtedness or  
44 obligations of other corporations whether government or private;  
45
- 46 (f) Solicit and receive donations, endowments, and funds in the form of contributions,  
47 whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors subject to existing  
48 budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations;  
49
- 50 (g) Open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions, and to disburse such  
51 funds or invest the same as the DMW Secretary may direct to accomplish or advance  
52 the purposes or interest of the hospital;



- 1  
2 (h) Invite foreign specialists and similar experts in the various medical fields not  
3 available in the country; to train the personnel, trainees, and residents;  
4  
5 (i) Send the personnel to research institutes, medical institutes, or universities for  
6 advance training or observation and to attend international or regional conventions,  
7 conferences, congresses, and seminars as the Medical Center Chief may deem  
8 necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the hospital and subject to  
9 the approval of the DMW Secretary; and  
10  
11 (j) Exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary or incidental for the  
12 accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the OFWH.  
13

14 **SEC. 7. Duties and Responsibilities of the DMW.** – The DMW shall:  
15

- 16 (a) Establish a focal office for migration and health in the DMW to ensure that the  
17 country's migrant health program is mainstreamed in the plans and programs of the  
18 OFWH which shall include:  
19  
20 (1) Assistance in identifying, documenting, processing, and approving applications  
21 for benefits granted to OFWs and their qualified dependents;  
22  
23 (2) Establishment of a referral system within the OFWH to ensure efficient delivery  
24 of medical and health care services to OFWs and their qualified dependents;  
25  
26 (3) Strengthening of the existing health benefits and medical assistance programs  
27 such as subsidies on hospitalization and medical procedures for OFWs and their  
28 qualified dependents, subject to the availability of funds and resources; and  
29  
30 (4) Active engagement in the Philippine Migrant Health Network, an inter-agency,  
31 multi-stakeholder network for migrant health, composed of members from other  
32 government, non-governmental agencies, academe, civil society organizations,  
33 private sector, and international organizations, to advocate and lobby support for  
34 migrant health programs;  
35  
36 (b) Formulate and promulgate policies, programs, and plans for the sound  
37 administration, maintenance, and operations of the OFWH in consultation with the  
38 Medical Center Chief;  
39  
40 (c) Determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the OFWH in  
41 accordance with the revised compensation and position classification system subject  
42 to the evaluation and approval of the DBM and in compliance with the civil service  
43 and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations;  
44  
45 (d) Appoint and remove OFWH personnel upon the recommendation of the Medical  
46 Center Chief subject to civil service rules and regulations and other applicable laws;  
47  
48 (e) Create a consultative committee and other necessary mechanisms for the effective  
49 participation of land-based and sea-based accredited OFW organizations in the  
50 formulation of policies for the effective implementation of programs and measures  
51 to attain the objectives of the OFWH;

- 1 (f) Determine and undertake, in coordination with the Governance Commission for  
2 Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations, the appropriate steps for the formal  
3 establishment and incorporation of the OFW Hospital in accordance with Republic  
4 Act No. 10149, otherwise known as the “*GOCC Governance Act of 2011*”:  
5 *Provided*, That the OFWH shall remain under the full control and supervision of the  
6 DMW, unless Congress shall provide otherwise; and  
7
- 8 (g) Perform such other functions that are necessary for the attainment of the purposes  
9 and objectives of this Act.  
10

11 **SEC. 8. *Medical Center Chief.*** – The Medical Center Chief shall be appointed by the  
12 President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the DMW Secretary.  
13

14 The Medical Center Chief shall have the following duties and responsibilities:  
15

- 16 (a) Provide overall direction and strategic leadership to the OFWH toward the provision  
17 of high-quality health services;  
18
- 19 (b) Oversee all managerial and administrative processes and operations of all  
20 departments of the OFWH;  
21
- 22 (c) Supervise daily activities of functional units;  
23
- 24 (d) Ensure high standards in clinical training for medical and allied medical personnel;  
25
- 26 (e) Execute, on behalf of the hospital, all contracts and agreements which the hospital  
27 may enter into and accomplish and deliver any and all documents relative to such  
28 contracts and agreements, subject to the approval of the DMW Secretary;  
29
- 30 (f) Represent the hospital in all dealing with other offices, agencies, and  
31 instrumentalities of the Government and all other persons or entities, whether  
32 domestic or foreign and whether government or private; and  
33
- 34 (g) Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed by  
35 the DMW.  
36

37 **SEC. 9. *Duties and Responsibilities of the DOH.*** – The DOH shall:  
38

- 39 (a) Ensure that the necessary permits and licenses to operate the OFWH are obtained,  
40 consistent with relevant issuances, rules and regulations;  
41
- 42 (b) Endorse and encourage medical specialists in other government hospitals such as the  
43 Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of  
44 the Philippines, National Children’s Hospital, and the Philippine General Hospital,  
45 to hold clinics in the OFWH;  
46
- 47 (c) Establish OFW centers or wards in DOH-retained hospitals to complement the  
48 OFWH. The level of OFW services and corresponding facilities in OFW centers or  
49 wards and their respective health human resource requirements shall be determined  
50 by the DOH, in coordination with stakeholders: *Provided*, That the standards to be

1 adopted thereon shall be consistent with the Philippine Health Facility Development  
2 Plan; and

- 3 (d) Perform such other functions that are necessary for the attainment of the purposes  
4 and objectives of this Act.  
5

6 **SEC. 10. *Support from other Government Agencies.*** – The OWWA shall ensure that  
7 existing health benefits and medical assistance programs are strengthened for OFWs and their  
8 qualified dependents: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or reduce  
9 the existing benefits of OFWs and their dependents provided under Republic Act No. 11223,  
10 otherwise known as the “*Universal Health Care Act.*”  
11

12 All other agencies, departments, bureaus, offices, or instrumentalities of the government,  
13 including government-owned or -controlled corporations, shall render assistance to the OFWH  
14 for the effective implementation of this Act.

15 **SEC. 11. *Congressional Oversight Committee.*** – There is hereby created a Joint  
16 Congressional Oversight Committee which shall be jointly chaired by the Chairpersons of the  
17 Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the House of Representatives Committee on  
18 Health. It shall be composed of five (5) members from the Senate and five (5) members from the  
19 House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House  
20 of Representatives, respectively: *Provided*, That at least one (1) member from each house shall  
21 come from the Minority.  
22

23 **SEC. 12. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this  
24 Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation of the concerned departments and  
25 agencies. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
26

27 **SEC. 13. *Annual Report.*** – The DMW shall submit to the President and Congress an  
28 annual report on the implementation of this Act.  
29

30 **SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
31 approval of this Act, the DMW shall, in consultation with the DOH, OWWA, and other  
32 stakeholders, promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.  
33

34 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
35 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force  
36 and effect.  
37

38 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** – Executive Order No. 154, Series of 2021, is hereby  
39 repealed. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or  
40 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
41

42 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
43 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,