



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9202

BY REPRESENTATIVES MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, TAN (A.), ANDAYA, SUANSING (E.), REVILLA, ROBES, RODRIGUEZ (M.), COLLANTES, ZAMORA (M.C.), GO (M.), ORTEGA (P.), SAVELLANO, VIOLAGO, AGGABAO, AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY, ZUBIRI, CAMINERO, BATAOIL, SY-ALVARADO, LAZATIN, ALONTE, DEL ROSARIO, BELARO, GASATAYA, ROMERO, NIETO, PALMA, MALAPITAN, MATUGAS, PIMENTEL, MARTINEZ, GARCIA (J.E.), HERRERA-DY, VELASCO-CATERA, MADRONA, YU, VELOSO, BERTIZ, NOGRALES (J.), EUSEBIO, NAVA, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, SALON, BOLILLA, BERNOS, LOPEZ (M.L.) AND ALEJANO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1324

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL 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
2 “Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Hospital Act or OFW Hospital
3 Act”.

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is policy of the State to
5 protect and promote the right to health of the Filipino people
6 and to instill health consciousness among them. The State

1 shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
2 development. Further, the State shall protect the interest and
3 promote the well-being of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) as
4 recognition of their importance and contribution to economic
5 development and nation building.

6 SEC. 3. *Establishment of the OFW Hospital.* – There shall be
7 established a hospital with at least tertiary level of care to be
8 known as OFW Hospital, hereinafter referred to as the Hospital.
9 The Hospital shall be developed consistent with the health
10 care needs of the OFW and their dependents. The Hospital shall
11 be under the full administrative and technical supervision of the
12 Department of Health (DOH).

13 SEC. 4. *Objectives.* – To ensure the availability, accessibility
14 and affordability of quality health care, the Hospital shall have
15 the following main objectives:

16 (a) Provide comprehensive and total health care services
17 to all migrant workers including Overseas Workers Welfare
18 Administration (OWWA) contributors, whether active or non-active,
19 and their legal dependents;

20 (b) Conduct medical examinations to ensure the physical
21 and mental capability of would-be overseas contract workers duly
22 covered by an approved job order;

23 (c) Serve as primary referral hospital for repatriated OFW
24 needing medical assistance and support;

25 (d) Set up systems that will effectively monitor condition
26 of patients and to generate relevant health information and data
27 for policy formulation; and

1 (e) Participate in the health care provider networks and
2 arrangements relative to the implementation of Republic Act
3 No. 11223, or the "Universal Health Care Act".

4 SEC. 5. *Medical Assistance.* – The Secretary of Labor and
5 Employment (DOLE), as Chairperson of the Overseas Workers
6 Welfare Administration (OWWA) Board, shall ensure that existing
7 health benefits and medical assistance programs are strengthened
8 to include, among others, subsidies on hospitalization and medical
9 procedures for OFW and qualified dependents.

10 SEC. 6. *Joint Executive Oversight Committee.* – There is
11 hereby created a Joint Executive Oversight Committee on OFW
12 Hospital to review and recommend hospital development plans
13 and ensure implementation of this Act.

14 The Committee shall be co-chaired by the Secretary of
15 Health and the Secretary of Labor and Employment. It shall
16 be composed of seven (7) members including the co-chairs.
17 The members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health
18 upon consultation with the Secretary of Labor and Employment.

19 SEC. 7. *Tax Exemption.* – All grants, bequests, endowments,
20 donations and contributions made to the OFW Hospital to be
21 used actually, directly and exclusively by the OFW Hospital
22 shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be
23 considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of the
24 donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal
25 Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

26 The importation of equipment, machinery and spare parts
27 which are used solely and exclusively for the operation of the OFW

1 Hospital and are not available locally shall be exempt from
2 value-added tax and customs duty.

3 SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Health shall
4 include in the Department's program the implementation of
5 this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
6 General Appropriations Act. The OWWA shall also include in their
7 benefits and medical assistance programs for OFW the line item
8 budget necessary to improve the access of OFW and dependents
9 to health care services.

10 SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty
11 (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH, in coordination
12 with DOLE, OWWA, Philippine Overseas Employment
13 Administration (POEA) and other stakeholders, shall promulgate
14 the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to carry out the
15 provisions of this Act.

16 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act
17 is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the
18 validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

19 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees,
20 executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or
21 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
22 or modified accordingly.

23 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
24 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper
25 of general circulation.

Approved,