

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
First Regular Session]**

23 APR 12 P5:10

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SENATE

S.B. No. 2065

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AT LEAST ONE REGIONAL SPECIALTY CENTER IN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HOSPITALS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution directs the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

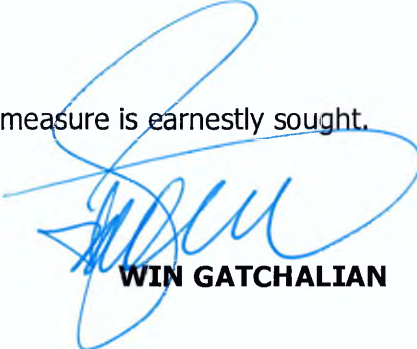
Notwithstanding the continuous investment by the government in the country's healthcare system pursuant to Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act (UHC law), access to specialized healthcare services remains to be limited to every Filipino, especially those residing in rural and remote areas. Since most specialty hospitals are established in Metro Manila and in other highly urbanized cities, patients and their immediate family members are burdened with additional cost of transportation and accommodation on top of the cost of specialized treatment and check-up.

To bridge the gaps in accessibility for and facilitate the delivery of specialized healthcare services to our constituents, the establishment of specialty centers in select

DOH hospitals in every region should be explored to ensure that our health facilities serve the needs of the people.

Accordingly, this proposed measure seeks to bring closer the necessary services that will meet the specialized healthcare needs of ordinary Filipinos by upgrading, improving, and expanding existing facilities and resources of select DOH hospitals to establish specialty centers. It is a more practical, efficient, and complementary approach to the implementation of the UHC law as the national government has more experience in providing accessible and affordable specialized healthcare services to the Filipino people.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



WIN GATCHALIAN

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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 as the “*Regional Specialty*
2 *Centers Act*”.

3
4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote
5 the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them by
6 making health services available, accessible, and affordable for all. Towards this end,
7 the State shall maximize the use of its resources to enable select Department of Health
8 hospitals bring the necessary specialized care closer to the Filipino people, especially
9 in rural and remote areas.

10
11 SEC. 3. *Specialty Centers* - The Department of Health (DOH) shall establish
12 Specialty Centers within select DOH hospitals and medical centers.

13 The creation of Specialty Centers shall increase the availability and accessibility
14 to specialized healthcare nationwide to ensure equitable healthcare for all and shall

1 address the medical needs of patients with diseases of a particular organ or group of
2 organs, and the healthcare needs of a particular group, such as children, women or
3 the elderly.

4 The DOH, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission and the Department
5 of Budget and Management, shall develop organizational structures and staffing
6 standards for the types and levels of Specialty Centers.

7
8 *SEC. 4. Period of Implementation.* - Within five (5) years upon the enactment of
9 this Act, there shall be at least one (1) specialty center in DOH hospitals in Northern
10 Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Southern Mindanao. Within
11 ten (10) years upon the enactment of this Act, there shall be at least one (1) specialty
12 center in every region. Within the period herein stated, all established specialty centers
13 in DOH hospitals shall be provided with the necessary funding, equipment, materials,
14 support staff and manpower resources.

15
16 *SEC. 5. National Specialty Centers.* - The National Specialty Centers, such as the
17 Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the
18 Philippines, Philippine Children's Medical Center and Philippine Cancer Center, shall lead
19 in the development of policies, protocols, and standards for the particular specialty and
20 shall have the highest level of clinical services, training, and research capability.
21 Further, they shall provide scientific leadership and lead the Specialty Centers by
22 providing specialty training and technical assistance.

23 The National Specialty Centers are encouraged to establish satellite offices in
24 identified DOH hospitals with specialty centers to oversee policies, protocols, and
25 standards in the specialty center.

26
27 *SEC. 6. Criteria for the Establishment of Specialty Centers.* - The establishment
28 of Specialty Centers in DOH Hospitals shall adhere to guidelines set by the DOH on
29 planning and prioritizing health facilities based on, but not limited to, the following
30 criteria:

1 (a) Upgrading of hospitals to become Specialty Centers based on the Resource
2 Stratified Framework developed by DOH for each specialty care;

3 (b) Evidence of the health needs and demands, including disease burdens, in
4 the catchment populations of the DOH facilities, in consultation with concerned
5 stakeholders;

6 (c) Service capability of the hospital and geographic or physical access;

7 (d) Appropriate level of specialized healthcare provider role in the continuum of
8 care, including roles of the DOH hospitals as referral for province-wide and city-wide
9 healthcare provider networks;

10 (e) Availability of competent health human resources for specialized healthcare;
11 and

12 (f) Operational and financial performance of the DOH facilities, including
13 accreditation to avail of specialized healthcare packages from the Philippine Health
14 Insurance Corporation.

15
16 *SEC. 7. Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP).* - The DOH shall
17 include the plans for the establishment of Specialty Centers in DOH hospitals in the
18 PHFDP, which serves as a guide for investments funded by the national government to
19 rationalize the distribution of capacity and capability of health facilities.

20 All government health facilities shall formulate their development plans
21 consistent with the PHFDP to access capital outlay investment through the Health
22 Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH.

23
24 *SEC. 8. Report to Congress.* - The Head of the DOH hospitals designated as
25 Specialty Centers shall provide the DOH and the congress, through the committee on
26 health of the house of representatives and the Committee on Health and demography
27 of the senate, an annual report of its activities, accomplishments, and operational plans
28 of the said Specialty Centers.

29

1 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Health shall include in the
2 Department's program the establishment and operationalization of the Specialty
3 Centers in selected DOH Hospitals, the funding of which shall be included in the budget
4 of the DOH under the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

5
6 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOH, in consultation with
7 the heads of DOH hospitals and other concerned agencies, shall formulate, identify,
8 and promulgate the implementing guidelines, rules and regulations necessary to carry
9 out the purposes of this Act.

10
11 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - Should any provision herein be declared
12 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this
13 Act.

14
15 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or
16 other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
17 or modified accordingly.

18
19 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

