

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 909**



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**INTRODUCED BY HON. JULIENNE “JAM JAM” BARONDA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to increase the bed capacity of the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) in Mandurriao, Iloilo City from the current four hundred and twenty-five (425) to seven hundred (700) beds and authorize the corresponding increase of medical personnel commensurate to the bed capacity.

The Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) started off in 1940 as an emergency hospital. Over the years, it evolved into the Iloilo Provincial Hospital (IPH) with a 200 hospital bed capacity. In 1982, the IPH was upgraded and reclassified into a regional hospital, then named as Western Visayas Regional Hospital, with an increase from 164 to 247 plantilla personnel<sup>1</sup>.

Ten years later in Feb 25, 1992, under Republic Act No. 7198, the bed capacity was increased to the present four hundred (400) beds. Then in 1995, the Department of Health gave WVMC supervisory powers over the 25-bed Pototan Mental Health Unit (PMHU).

It has been twenty-seven years since the last upgrade in bed capacity despite the continued growth in the population of its clientele and the expansion of its services to people coming from neighboring provinces. By this year (2019), the population of Iloilo City is expected to reach five hundred thousand (500,000)<sup>2</sup>. Obviously, the current 425 bed capacity of the WVMC pose a great challenge to the medical workers and personnel in the delivery of quality and affordable healthcare for the people of Iloilo, the neighboring provinces in the Panay Island, the province of Guimaras and the rest of the region.

The increase in bed capacity, upgrade of its facilities and a workforce commensurate to the increase would provide a more effective and efficient delivery of medical services and healthcare to the people of Western Visayas. Hence the passage of this bill is of utmost importance to guarantee health for all and uplift the quality of life and well-being of the people in Western Visayas.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://wvmc.doh.gov.ph/index.php/12-transparency/9-history>

<sup>2</sup> Source: The Iloilo City Population Office (Population Growth Rate and the Community-based Migration Project)

This bill was filed during the third regular session of the Seventeenth Congress by former Iloilo District Representative Jerry Trenas. However, due to time constraints, no further action was taken on it. I am pursuing this measure for consideration of the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**JULIENNE "JAM JAM" BARONDA**  
Representative, Iloilo City Lone District

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**HOUSE BILL NO.** 909

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**Introduced by Hon. Julienne “Jam Jam” Baronda**

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**AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER IN MANDURIAO, ILOILO CITY FROM FOUR AND TWENTY-FIVE (425) TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700), AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1    **SECTION 1. *Increase In Authorized Bed Capacity*** - The authorized bed capacity of the  
2    Western Visayas Medical Center situated in Mandurriao, Iloilo City is hereby increased from  
3    four hundred and twenty-five (425) to seven hundred (700) beds.

4    **SEC. 2. *Upgrade of Existing Service Facilities*** - The existing hospital facilities and  
5    professional health services of the Western Visayas Medical Center are hereby upgraded to  
6    conform with and be commensurate to the increase in its bed capacity as provided in Section 1  
7    hereof.

8    **SEC. 3. *Expansion of Manpower Requirement*** - The existing workforce of the Western  
9    Visayas Medical Center shall also be correspondingly increased. The Department of Health  
10   (DOH), shall, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the  
11   Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC),  
12   determine the additional plantilla positions to be created pursuant to this act.

1   **SEC. 4. *Period of Implementation*** - The increase in bed capacity of the Western Visayas  
2   Medical Center to seven hundred (700) beds shall be implemented for a period of not more  
3   than two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act.

4   **SEC. 5. *Appropriations*** - The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the  
5   Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included  
6   in the annual General Appropriations Act.

7   **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional,  
8   the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

9   **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause*** – All other laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations  
10   or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
11   amended or modified accordingly.

12   **SEC. 8. *Effectivity*** - This law shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete  
13   publication in the *Official Gazette* or two newspapers of general circulation.

14           Approved,