

Republic of the Philippines House of Representatives

Queson City, Metro Manila



EIGHTHEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session

> 4151 H. B. No.

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT

TO ESTABLISH A TWENTY-FIVE (25) BED CAPACITY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN BORACAY ISLAND, MALAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BORACAY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our Constitution, under Article II, Section 15 provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill consciousness among them.

Located approximately 315 kilometers south of Manila and 2 kilometers off the northwest tip of the island of Panay in the Western Visayas region of the Philippines, the island of Boracay is under the administrative control of the Philippine Tourism Authority in coordination with the Provincial Government of Aklan.

Arguably the country's most popular tourist destination, Boracay attracted 619,934 tourists or 28% of the total number of tourists who visited the country in the first quarter of 2019. Despite its high tourist and economic activity, and although the government is upgrading Boracay to welcome more tourists as well as to address environmental and infrastructure issues, the Island remains without an emergency public hospital to serve the immediate and regular medical needs of its residents and visitors. Thus, a significant number of these people are at risk of being unattended by competent medical personnel in times of emergency or even for standard medical checkups. The geography of the island will hence require them to settle for less accessible medical facilities in the Panay mainland, at greater financial cost and travel time.

The bill seeks to establish a public hospital in the Island that will cater the medical needs of the Islands' residents and visitors. In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a twenty-five (25)-bed capacity emergency hospital in Boracay Island, Malay, Province of Aklan, to be known as the Boracay Emergency Hospital.

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SEC. 2. The Department of Health, in coordination with the local government officials concerned, shall promulgate and issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

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SEC. 3. The Department of Health shall provide subsidy to the Municipality of Malay for the initial establishment of the public hospital. Thereafter, such funds necessary for the maintenance and operation of the hospital shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code.

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SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

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17 Approved,