



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 517



Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require all provincial governments to establish, operate and maintain an intensive care unit (ICU) in their respective provincial hospitals.

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

“Sec.11. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.”

Health development is one of the pressing and urgent concerns of the government because of the primordial importance of health to people.

Provincial hospitals which are established, operated and maintained by provinces and duly licensed by the Department of Health are primarily devoted for medical diagnosis, treatment and care of patients suffering from diseases, injuries and other medical conditions. With the rising number of critically ill patients who require hospital confinement, it is disheartening to note that many of them cannot avail of the much-needed medical care. The unavailability of intensive care units (ICUs) in some provincial hospitals which are deemed critical in saving a person from suffering permanent disability or even the loss of life should be addressed. Based on the 2015 list of licensed government and private hospitals prepared by the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau of the Department of Health, there are existing provincial hospitals without ICUs.

An ICU serves as an exclusive and specialized treatment area in which patients requiring close monitoring, continuous attention and intensive critical care are kept. An ICU contains highly technical monitoring devices and equipment and is staffed by personnel trained to deliver critical care.

To ensure efficient, accessible and affordable medical services to critically ill patients, it is imperative to require all provincial governments to provide general intensive care units in their respective provincial hospitals. The amount needed for the establishment of this proposed measure shall be taken from the proceeds of the incremental revenues collected from the excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products as provided under Republic Act No. 10351, allocated for medical assistance and health enhancement facilities program of the Department of Health.

This proposed measure also seeks to create plantilla positions for the qualified and competent intensive care unit specialist and medical staff to ensure that the special critical care intended for critically ill patients can be adequately attended to.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH,
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** –This Act shall be known as the “*Intensive Care Unit Act.*”

SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.***– It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide equal health opportunities and greater resources to help all people achieve optimal health and well-being. Towards this end, it is imperative that every provincial government shall establish, operate and maintain an intensive care unit in its provincial hospital to provide the highest level of medical and nursing care for patients with serious medical conditions.

SEC. 3. ***Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of an Intensive Care Unit.*** – To address the need for treating critically ill patients, each provincial

government shall provide a general intensive care unit in its provincial hospital which has no existing intensive care unit (ICU).

The Department of Health shall provide guidelines and criteria for the establishment of a general intensive care unit in these provincial hospitals.

The operation and maintenance of the general intensive care units including the salaries of the assigned intensive care unit specialist and medical staff in the general ICU of provincial hospitals shall be the responsibility of the provincial government.

SEC. 4. ***Plantilla Positions for ICU Medical Staff.*** – The plantilla positions for the assignment of one (1) intensive care unit specialist and at least two (2) medical staff shall be created in every provincial hospital in order to effectively render specialized medical services to critically ill patients.

The appointment of the intensive care unit specialist and medical staff assigned to the ICU shall be subject to the applicable civil service rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the establishment of ICUs in all provincial hospitals without existing ICUs shall be taken from the proceeds of the incremental revenues collected from the excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products allocated for medical assistance and health enhancement facilities

program as provided under Subsection (C), Section 288 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

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

SEC. 8. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,