

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4651



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2017, the Department of Health (DOH) admitted that the shortage of beds remains a challenge in government hospitals with a ratio of 1 hospital bed per 800 people in Metro Manila alone. Then Health Secretary Rosell-Ubial said that majority of government hospitals are over occupied and at least 42,000 hospital beds are required¹. The public health sector has struggled with financing its hospitals and programs. The World Health Organization pointed out the maldistribution of infrastructure and human resources across the country, and defined the current system as "fragmented"².

Several reforms have been made in order to address the concerns that riddle the current health care system in the Philippines. One major success was the passage of the Universal Health Care law which puts all Filipinos into the National Health Insurance Program and ensure primary care services to all. However, inefficiencies still abound, such as gaps in delivery of service and, most especially, infrastructure.

Under current policy, a government hospital can only increase its bed capacity through legislation. This bill hopes to address this by authorizing the DOH to administratively determine and approve the bed capacity and service capability of all government hospitals. This will empower the DOH, who have expertise on service delivery in our health care system, to evaluate and approve changes in its hospitals.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

¹ <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2017/08/15/doh-admits-lack-of-beds-in-metro-manila-hospitals/>

² The Philippines Health System Review. Health Systems in Transition, Vol. 8 No. 2, 2018. *World Health Organization*. http://apps.searo.who.int/PDS_DOCS/B5438.pdf. Accessed on July 10, 2019.

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HOUSE BILL NO. ____

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AN ACT

**AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) TO SET AND APPROVE
THE BED CAPACITY OF ALL DOH HOSPITALS**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "DOH Hospital Bed Capacity Rationalization Act".

SECTION 2. This Act shall streamline the process for approving changes in the authorized bed capacities of all Department of Health (DOH) hospitals.

SECTION 3. Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to adjust and approve the authorized bed capacities of all DOH hospitals. Thereafter, the DOH shall, through an administrative order, determine the bed capacities of DOH government hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that shall be issued and promulgated, within three (3) months after the enactment of this Act.

SECTION 4. The DOH shall provide Congress, through the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health and Demography of the Senate, an annual report of hospitals with approved bed capacity, along with the necessary funding requirements.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department's programs the funding requirements for the increase in bed capacity of each of the hospital in accordance with the Philippine Hospital Development Plan and the Modernization/Development Plan of each hospital, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. The DOH shall formulate the rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days of its effectivity.

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

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,