

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6783**



Introduced by **HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR**
3rd District, Bohol

Explanatory Note

The 2017 Philippine Renal Disease Registry annual report shows that around 21,535 Filipino patients have undergone dialysis due to kidney failure in 2016. The figure indicates a dramatic increase from only 9,716 cases recorded in 2010 and presents a rate of increase at around 8-18 percent per year. Sadly however, the data does not include patients who are unable to get treatment due to inaccessibility to clinics.

In 2018 the Department of Health and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute reported that one person dies every hour from kidney failure. More than 7,000 cases of kidney failure in the country are recorded every year. This puts kidney failure as the ninth-leading cause of death among Filipinos today.

Dialysis helps lengthen the life of a patient but is very expensive. It costs around P60,000 to P70,000 a month—that's P720,000 to P840,000 a year. This does not yet include the fees for required laboratory tests and medicines. Add to this cost the travel expenses of patients in the rural areas who need to travel to avail themselves of advanced medical treatment in sophisticated hospitals found in urban cities.

In consonance to the government's mandate to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall make health services accessible and affordable to everyone, this proposed measure seeks to require all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals to establish, operate, and maintain a dialysis ward or unit that shall provide free dialysis treatment to indigent patients.

For a more accessible and efficient dialysis treatment for everyone, especially those in the rural areas, the immediate approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.


HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD
OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS
TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Dialysis
2 Center Act”.

3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to
5 improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure hospital
6 facilities are available, affordable, and accessible to the people.

7

8 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following
9 terms shall mean:

- 10 a) *Secretary* refers to the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- 11 b) *National Government Hospital* refers to a hospital operated and
12 maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by
13 any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- 14 c) *Regional Government Hospital* refers to a hospital operated and
15 maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by
16 any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- 17 d) *Provincial Government Hospital* refers to a hospital operated and
18 maintained either partially or wholly by the provincial government or

1 other political subdivision, or by any department division, board or
2 other agency thereof; and

3 e) *Indigent Patient* refers to a patient who has no visible means of
4 income, compensation, or financial assistance from his/ her relatives to
5 support his/ her basic needs, as determined by the Department of
6 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

7
8 **SEC. 4. Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis**
9 **Ward or Unit.** – Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all
10 national, regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby required to
11 establish, operate, and maintain a dialysis ward or unit in their hospital. The
12 dialysis ward or unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine,
13 equipment, and supplies.

14
15 **SEC. 5. Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients.** – Dialysis
16 treatment in all national, regional and provincial government hospitals shall be
17 provided free of charge to indigent patients as defined in Section 3 (e) hereof.

18
19 **SEC. 6. Penalty.** – Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-in-charge
20 who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand
21 Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000).

22
23 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Secretary shall
24 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this
25 Act.

26
27 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – Such amount as may be necessary to
28 implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from
29 the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous
30 implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital's annual
31 appropriations.

1 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be held
2 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall
3 remain in full force and effect.

4

5 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders or issuances, or
6 any parts thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended
7 accordingly.

8

9 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
10 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,