



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **0627**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO**

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 (LGC) and revert to the national government the responsibility of delivering field health and hospital services as well as other tertiary health services.

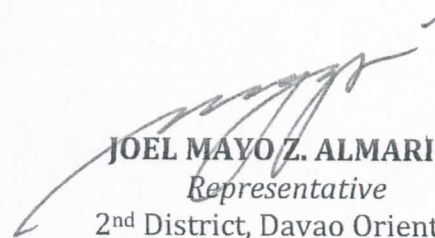
In an effort at decentralizing government functions and responsibilities, the LGC transferred the duty of providing basic services including health, social services, agriculture, environment and natural resources from the national government to local government units (LGUs). The LGC also increased financial resources available to LGUs not only by broadening their taxing powers, but also increasing their automatic share from national taxes, i.e., the internal revenue allotment (IRA) shares of LGUs.

However, twenty-seven years since the enactment of the LGC, the devolution of basic health services has proven to be more detrimental than beneficial to the common folk. The IRA share of LGUs is limited to 40% of the national internal revenue which is divided to provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays based proportionately on each LGU's population and area. Such distribution of IRA makes it difficult for most LGUs, especially the smaller municipalities and barangays, to improve health services due to the limited funding. Many LGUs have been unable to afford the salaries of health care workers who opt instead to either work for the national hospitals funded directly by the Department of Health (DOH), private institutions, or even overseas where salaries and income incentives are better. The IRA distribution also affects the improvement of health facilities and the availability of even the most essential medicines.

In addition, health care is also vulnerable to the local political landscape and changing priorities of each LGU administration. Depending on the needs of each locality, leaders may prioritize other programs such as education or social work, leaving little funding for other things. Health care thus becomes dependent on the quality of LGU management.

With the passage of this bill, it is hoped that quality health care will be provided to all Filipinos, especially the poor and marginalized sectors of society. Upgrading and better maintenance of government health services and facilities is also foreseen with the transfer of responsibility for health care to the national government, as well as the strengthening of professional health manpower that is responsive to the people's needs.

Support for this bill is earnestly sought.


JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JOEL MAYO Z. ALMARIO**

**AN ACT REVERTING TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE DISCHARGE OF BASIC
HEALTH SERVICES DEVOLVED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs),
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "Re-Nationalization of Devolved
2 Health Services and Facilities Act. "

3
4 **SECTION 2. Re-nationalization** - All health services and facilities devolved to the local
5 government units (LGUs) are hereby re-nationalized and/or returned to the management,
6 supervision and control of the national government.

7
8 For this purpose, the following provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as
9 The Local Government Code of 1991 are hereby expressly repealed:

10
11 a. Section 17 (b) paragraph 1, paragraph 3, and paragraph 4 for health
12 services only;

13
14 b. Section 102 a (1), a (2), a (3), b (1), b (2), and b (3);

15
16 c. Section 103 (a) and (b);

17
18 d. Section 104;

19
20 e. Section 105; and

21
22 f. Other related provisions of the Local Government Code that pertain to
23 devolved health services and facilities.

24
25 **SECTION 3. Appropriation** - Funding for the operation, capital expenses, continued
26 operations and other similar costs of the renationalized facilities and services shall
27 continue to be shouldered by the LGU concerned until such can be incorporated into the
28 General Appropriations Act of the immediately succeeding full fiscal year.

29
30 **SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - The DOH, in consultation with the
31 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall formulate the Implementing
32 Rules and Regulations (IRR) within three (3) months after the enactment of this Act.
33

1 **SECTION 5. Repealing Clause** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules
2 and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4
5 **SECTION 6. Separability Clause** - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is
6 held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof shall not be
7 affected
8 thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

9
10 **SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.