

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A HOSPITAL FOR TEACHERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We have always recognized the important role of our teachers. They are our unsung heroes because despite the difficulties that confront their profession, they have remained steadfast in molding the values and character of our youth.

In fact, one of the most reliable and dedicated public servants are our teachers. Aside from their normal teaching duties, they are also being constantly called upon by officials of the local and national government to assist in various extra-curricular and civic activities which contribute to the welfare of the community and the country, most notable of which is when they perform election related duties. They have also gathered data for the National Statistics Office, despite going to the remotest of places.

The Family Code, under Article 218, also extends to teachers substitute and special parental authority. It expressly states that: *"the school, its administrators and teachers shall have special parental authority and responsibility over the minor child while under their supervision, instruction or custody."*

It is also worthy to note that their normal teaching duties are no easy task. Statistics from the Department of Education would bear out that teacher-student ratio in the elementary and secondary levels are now at 1:36 and 1:39, respectively.

As a result, our teachers are exposed to health risks, most common of which are ailments coming from work-related pharyngitis, hypertension, anemia, and hyperacidity, among others. There is therefore a need for the State to provide health facilities that specifically cater to the needs of teachers in view of the important role they play in educating our children and in the nation's progress.

The bill proposes the establishment of a special hospital, the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL, to be located in the National Capital Region as the primary medical facility for the hospitalization and medical care of teachers and their dependents. All regional hospitals shall also be required to establish a teachers' ward to provide medical services to teachers and their dependents residing outside the National Capital Region.

It is the hope of the author that such hospital can provide comprehensive health care services to all teachers and their dependents and complement the existing package of services under the National Health Insurance Program.

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



GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Teacher' Hospital Act of 2016."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make essential health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. Towards this end, the State shall protect the interest and promote the well being of Filipino teachers, including their families and dependents through the provision of social welfare services.

SECTION 3. *Creation of Special Hospital and Special Wards.* - To carry-out the above policy, a special hospital for teachers, to be named the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL, is hereby established in the National Capital Region. Such hospital shall be the primary medical facility for the hospitalization and medical care of teachers and their dependents.

Each regional hospital shall establish a teachers' ward, with an initial capacity of at least fifty (50) beds, which will provide hospitalization and medical care to teachers and their dependents residing outside the National Capital Region.

For purposes of this Act, "teachers" shall include, but is not limited to, the following.

- a) All persons engaged in the classroom teaching of any subject, including practical/vocational arts, at the day care, pre-school, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels of instruction in all public and private educational institutions;
- b) Individuals performing guidance and counselling in all public and private institutions;
- c) All persons who provide instructional supervision in all public and private educational institutions;
- d) All persons employed as school administrative support employees;

- e) School physicians, school dentists, and school nurses;
- f) Officials and employees of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on higher Education (CHED); and
- g) Graduates of education who have passed the government examination for teachers, although not actually employed as such.

"Dependents" shall refer to the following: (a) the legitimate spouse dependent for support upon the teacher; (b) the legitimate, illegitimate, or legally adopted children, chiefly dependent upon and living with the teacher if such child is not more than twenty-one (21) years of age, unmarried and not gainfully employed or is over the age of majority but incapacitated and incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical defect; and (c) the parents dependent upon the member for support.

SECTION 4. *Objectives.* - To ensure the availability, accessibility and afford ability of quality health care, the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL shall:

- a) Provide for a comprehensive/total health care services to all and their legal dependents;
- b) Complement the existing package of services under the National Health Insurance Program so as to include preventive, diagnostic, curative and rehabilitative programs;
- c) Conduct medical examination to ensure the physical and mental capability of all teacher applicants; and
- d) Set-up a system that will effectively monitor the condition of patients and to generate relevant information/data in aid of policy formulation.

SECTION 5. *Administration.* - Upon effectivity of this Act, the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITALS shall be administered by a Board of Directors consisting of:

- a) The Secretary of the Department of Education as *ex-officio* Chairman
- b) The Secretary of the Department of Health as *ex-officio* Vice Chairman
- c) The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education as *ex-officio* member
- d) The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development as *ex-officio* member
- e) Three representative from the teachers sector: one (1) from Luzon, one (1) from Visayas, one (1) from Mindanao as Members.

The three (3) representatives from the teachers sectors shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines from list of nominees prepared by the *ex-officio* Chairman to serve for a term of three (3) years without reappointment.

SECTION 6. *Responsibility and Powers.* - The Board of Directors of the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

- a) To formulate and implement measures and programs to attain the objectives and purposes of the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL as enunciated in Section 4 of this Act;

b) To organize the structure of the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL in accordance with a staffing pattern prepared by it and approved by the Department of Budget and Management; to appoint the officials and employees of the Hospital, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations; to prescribe their duties and fix their compensation subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 6758;

c) To enter into agreements and contracts in connections with its establishment, maintenance, operations and objectives;

d) To issue rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Act; and

e) To perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

SECTION 7. *Appropriation.* - An amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the establishment and initial operations of the PHILIPPINE TEACHERS' HOSPITAL. Subsequently, appropriations for the operations shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectively.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,