

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

18TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3552



Introduced by Representative **CARLITO S. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the establishment of the Aklan Geriatric Medical Center (AGMC) to cater the primary and special medical needs of the elderly in the Province of Aklan.

Although it is mandated that all senior citizens are covered by Philhealth through Republic Act No. 10645, also known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, it is high time to institutionalize centers exclusive for the elderly to address health-related concerns. These concerns downplay the role of the elderly in nation-building. Based on the 2015 Population Census, there are 575,000 people in Aklan and accounts 6.3% of the age group above 65 years old.

Article XIII, Section 11 states that, to wit: *"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."

In order to provide an integrated and comprehensive approach to the health development of the elderly, it is imperative that such government medical facility be established. Vulnerable sectors such as the elderly, or senior citizens, need special care and management and that it should no longer be viewed in isolation. This is to emphasize that there are rising health needs to address concerning the said sector.

An aging population tends to have a higher prevalence of chronic diseases, physical distress, mental illnesses, and frailty. The aged body is physiologically different from the younger adult body, with age-related decline of various organ systems occurring. Furthermore, older adults will likely develop at least one chronic medical condition.

Not only do we recognize their health concerns, the elderly has had contributed their taxes when they were stronger. This will give them full range of health care services they deserve such as primary care, wellness services, and behavioral health care.

As a primary and special healthcare facility, AGMC is dedicated to the care of the elderly in which it aims to:

- a. Administer and operate an integrated medical facility specializing in services for geriatrics medicine;

- b. Promote medical, scientific research and training relative to the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of disease of older persons;
- c. Establish a center for research and development in the fields of geriatrics medicine;
- d. Develop, adopt, and implement programs in Geriatric Medicine for education and training of physicians, nurses, health officers, social workers, and other medical healthcare providers in the practical and scientific implementation of health services and programs for older persons; and
- e. Create and support an environment that encourages holistic approach to geriatrics healthcare which shall foster and promote productive aging.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ENGR. CARLITO "Lito" MARQUEZ 

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE AKLAN GERIATRIC MEDICAL CENTER
IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Aklan Geriatric Medical Center (AGMC) is
2 hereby established.

3 **Sec. 2.** The seat of AGMC shall be at Kalibo, Aklan.

4 **Sec. 3.** The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination
5 with the Civil Service Commission, Department of Budget and
6 Management and DOH Regional Health Office VI, shall promulgate
7 the organizational plan and staffing pattern of the said specialty
8 medical center.

9 **Sec. 4.** The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in
10 the Department's programs the operationalization of the AGMC for

1 a period of not more than five (5) years, the initial funding thereof.
2 Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued operation shall
3 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

4 **Sec. 5.** The DOH, through its Regional Health Office VI
5 Director and the Medical Center Chief, in coordination with
6 concerned national and local government units, shall also prepare
7 the mechanisms for sourcing supplementary funds to augment the
8 operations of the AGMC.

9 **Sec. 6.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and
10 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
11 modified accordingly.

12 **Sec. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after tis
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
14 circulation.

15 *Approved.*