

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3972



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Kidney problems has consistently ranked among the top 10 causes of morbidity¹ in the Philippines and took the 7th spot in leading causes of death in 2014². With an alarmingly increasing rate of 10 to 15 percent a year in the number of kidney disease cases estimated by the Department of Health³, it is not surprising that the number of Filipinos undergoing dialysis has gone up to 28,000.

For Filipinos living below the poverty line, the cost of dialysis at Php 2,500 per session is too much to bear. Given the current situation of kidney disease in the country, a State provision for this particular health care issue is imperative. The increase in the cases entails an increase in support by the State, especially for indigent patients.

This bill proposes to address this by establishing dialysis clinics in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals in the country to serve the needs of the public. The National Kidney and Transplant Institute serves an average of 34,000 dialysis sessions every year⁴ and takes in cases for patients from outside the National Capital Region. Branching out the units that can provide dialysis treatments to the regions and provinces and provide them for free, as the bill proposes, would help in battling this Chronic Kidney diseases in the country.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

¹ <http://today.mims.com/philippines-struggles-with-renal-disease>

² <http://www.manilatimes.net/kidney-disease-phs-7th-leading-cause-of-death/77716/>

³ Ibid

⁴ <https://www.rappler.com/nation/97568-90-days-dialysis-philhealth-coverage>

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL NATIONAL,
REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND PROVIDING FOR FREE
DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – The Act shall be known as the "Dialysis Center Act".

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

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

- a. Secretary – shall refer to the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- b. National Government Hospital – shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;

- c. Regional Government Hospital – shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof;
- d. Provincial Government Hospital – shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the provincial government or other political subdivision, or by any department division, board or other agency thereof; and
- e. Indigent Patient – shall refer to a patient whose combined annual family incomes does not exceed Thirty Thousand (Php 30,000.00) annually.

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

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

SECTION 6. *Penalty.* – Any hospital chief, administrator or officer-in-charge who fails to comply with this Act shall be punished with a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00).

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Appropriation.* – Such amount as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the government hospital's annual appropriations.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,