

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1153**



Introduced by
HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a tertiary hospital under the full and direct control, supervision and management of the Department of Health to be known as the Samar Island Medical Center located in the City of Calbayog, Samar.

One of the most crucial challenges of Eastern Visayas is the unavailability of adequate hospitals, especially for patients coming from indigent families. Presently, according to the Department of Health, the region still needs an additional 1,500 hospital beds for its 4.2 million population, to conform to global standards of one hospital bed per 1,000 population. Records of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation show that that region has a combined hospital bed capacity of 2,700, or 1,500 less than the World Health Organization (WHO) standard for a region with a population of 4.2 million.

The opening of Samar Island Medical Center will complement the passage of the recently passed Universal Health Care Act. It will effectively close the gap in the region's hospital bed capacity, as well as ensure wider access to affordable and quality healthcare services particularly in Samar island. Health care service gaps have been blamed as one of the causes of deaths in the region. For instance, 92 mothers died per 100,000 live births, 40 percent of infant do not survive after birth, and 24 percent of tuberculosis patients succumbed. It is imperative that Samar Island gets its own tertiary hospital to cater to the healthcare needs of the people in the area and free them from the inconvenience of traveling even for hours just to be admitted to hospitals in Tacloban.

1 Easy accessibility to tertiary health care for less fortunate Filipinos from
2 the island of Samar is deemed urgently necessary. In view of the foregoing, the
3 passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
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10 **Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**
11 Representative, Tingog Sinirangan
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18 **Rep. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**
19 Representative, First District of Leyte
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16 Introduced by
17 **HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**
18 and
19 **HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**
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24 **AND ACT ESTABLISHING A TERTIARY HOSPITAL UNDER THE**
25 **CONTROL, SUPERVISION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT**
26 **OF HEALTH IN THE CITY OF CALBAYOG, SAMAR TO BE KNOWN AS THE**
27 **SAMAR ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**
28 **THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
29

30 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of the Representatives of the*
31 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
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33 **Section 1.** There shall be established a tertiary general hospital, known
34 as the Samar Island Regional Medical Center, with a minimum capacity of one
35 hundred (100) beds, to be located in the City of Calbayog.
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37 **Section 2.** The Samar Island Regional Medical Center shall be under
38 the direct administrative, and technical supervision of the Department of Health.
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40 **Section 3.** The Department of Health shall formulate the necessary
41 guidelines for its operation as a tertiary hospital and ensure funding for the
42 acquisition of the land on which the hospital will be established, the construction
43 of the hospital buildings and other complementary infrastructure, facilities and

1 medical equipment, as well as for the costs for the necessary maintenance and
2 personal services.

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4 **Section 4.** The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the
5 Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which
6 shall be charged against the current year's unappropriated balance of the
7 Department of Health. An appropriation of two hundred million pesos (P
8 200,000,000.00) shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year
9 succeeding the implementation of this Act, and one hundred million pesos (P
10 100,000,000.00) thereafter for four (4) years or until the provisions of this Act
11 are fully implemented is hereby set aside for the purpose of this Act. Thereafter,
12 the amount necessary for the continued operation of the Samar Island Regional
13 Medical Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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15 **Section 5.** If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or
16 invalid, other parts for provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue
17 to remain in full force and effect.

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19 **Section 6.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or
20 parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are
21 deemed amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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23 **Section 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following
24 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2)
25 newspapers of general circulation.



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1154

Introduced by
HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ
and
HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill seeks to increase the bed capacity of the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center from five hundred (500) to one thousand five hundred (1,500), upgrade its services, facilities, professional health care, increase the number of medical personnel and to change its name to Eastern Visayas Medical Center to reflect the coming changes.

The Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) in Tacloban City is a Department of Health retained Level III hospital. It is accredited by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and is its leader in the no balance billing scheme to indigents in all of Eastern Visayas.

The increase in bed capacity is aimed at bridging the current gap between hospital beds in the region, to improve the quality of healthcare and ensure the successful realization of the Philippine Health Agenda. Enactment of this law will reduce the hospital bed to population ratio in the region from about 1:1,500 to approximately 1:1,000.


The hospital is currently struggling to keep up with the increasing number of patients being admitted as its personnel complement is only good for patients half of the current headcount. It has then resorted to hiring of personnel on job order basis to fill the gap between plantilla positions and its actual manpower need. From July to December 2017, there were over 500 persons hired under this program. With the release of Joint Circular No. 17 s. 2017 (CSC-DBM-COA), all these job order personnel shall be discontinued by January 2018, leaving the hospital with severe deficiency of manpower resources.

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2 Increasing the bed capacity to complement the actual number of patients
3 being served will bring a much better service to the patients not only in terms
4 of manpower but more so in the field of medicine, upgrade of equipment and
5 improved health services as hospital generated resources can now be allocated
6 to these areas other than payment of wages for additional workers.
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8 This expansion will also allow EVRMC to establish twelve (12) fully
9 functional specialty care centers at par with those in major cities in the country
10 and elsewhere in the ASEAN. The expansion and upgrade of the hospital's
11 services will not only provide better health outcomes, but will also allow free if
12 not, low cost, and accessible health care services especially to the vulnerable
13 people of the region as well as the nation.
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15 This move will position the hospital as a true medical center such that
16 the word "regional" would now be inaccurate and a misnomer. Thus, the
17 proposal to change the name to Eastern Visayas Medical Center.
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19 In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.
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28 **Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**
29 Representative, Tingog Sinirangan
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36 **Rep. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**
37 Representative, First District of Leyte
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