

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1339



Introduced by HON. MARK O. GO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a dialysis unit in one national government hospital in every province and/or region as well as to provide free dialysis treatment for poor patients suffering from Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

This is pursuant to the Constitutional mandate of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The increasing number of cases of kidney failure in the Philippines is quite alarming. According to the Renal Disease Control Program (REDCOP) of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi), Chronic Kidney Disease is the 8th leading cause of death among the Filipinos. One Filipino develops chronic renal failure every hour or about 120 Filipinos per million population per year. From 2002 to 2015, the Philippines recorded one of the countries with the largest proportionate increase in End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) prevalence in Asia with 203%.

Majority of ESRD among Filipinos is secondary to complications of diabetes, hypertension and chronic glomerulonephritis. As of 2013, there are about 300 to 500 kidney transplants performed annually and 7,000 estimated cases ESRD waiting for transplant and still escalating every year.

The optimum frequency of dialysis is three times a week, but due to its being costly and inaccessibility mainly in the provinces, patients compromise their health conditions. The cost of a kidney operation ranges from Php600,000 to 1 million pesos while a session of dialysis will cost a patient P2,000 to P2,500 in government hospitals and around P4,000. PhilHealth records show that in from 2014-2017, hemodialysis posted the most number of filed claims among procedures with a total benefit payments amounting to Php27,226,598,550.00

In 2012, PhilHealth announced that it will subsidize the cost of kidney transplant up to Php600,000 for ESRD patients. In 2015, it expanded its subsidy of dialysis treatment from 45 to 90 sessions annually covering P 2,500.00 per session.

With this very limited subsidy and accessibility of dialysis treatment, it is therefore imperative to establish a dialysis unit in one national government hospital in every province and/or region to cater to our poor patients suffering from Chronic Kidney Disease and avail such procedure free of charge.

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



MARK O. GO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eigteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1339

Introduced by HON. MARK O. GO

AN ACT
MANDATING ONENATIONAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALIN EVERY PROVINCE
AND/OR REGION TO ESTABLISH A DIALYSIS UNITAND PROVIDING FREE
DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO POOR 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.* – This Act shall be known as the “Regional Dialysis Center Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* –It is a declared policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour 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 endeavour to provide free medical care to paupers.

It is also hereby declared as a 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.

SEC. 3. *Identification of National Government Hospitals.* – The Department of Health is hereby authorized to identify one national government hospital in every province and/or region that shall establish and maintain a dialysis unit. The DOH shall consider the status and capability of the hospital including its area and facilities for the establishment of the said dialysis unit.

SEC. 4. *Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Unit.* – Within eighteen (18) months from the effectivity of this Act, the identified national government hospital in every province and/or regionis hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis unit in its hospital. The dialysis unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies to be managed by qualified medical personnel.

SEC. 5. *Free Dialysis Treatment to Poor Patients.* – Dialysis treatment in the identified national government hospital in every province and/or region shall be provided free of charge to poor patients whose combined annual family income does not exceed to Seventy Two Thousand Pesos (Php 72,000.00).

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Penalty.* – Any hospital chief, administrator or office-in-charge who refuses to accept poor dialysis patients and/or fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be imposed a penalty of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00).

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*– If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,