

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1376

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH AN INMATES' WARD

EXPLANATORY NOTE

News and reports on escape of prisoners have cast doubt on the ability of law enforcement agencies and penal institutions to effectively undertake custody of inmates and convicts.

To cite an example, a detainee who was locked up inside the detention cell of the local police station, in Nueva Ecija, escaped from a hospital where he was rushed following a scuffle with fellow inmates.

It was reported that inside the detention cell, an inmate figured in a brawl with other inmates where he got beaten up prompting the police to dispatch a three-man team, which rushed the badly bruised inmate to the San Jose City General Hospital.


Accordingly, while being treated, said inmate's police escorts waited outside the hospital room. While the nurse was attending to the inmate, another bloodied patient was brought into the room, which triggered a commotion because of kibitzers who gathered around the said patient and in the ensuing commotion, the inmate escaped, using the backdoor ([http://www.philstar.com/nation/615556/wounded-ecija-inmate-escapes hospital](http://www.philstar.com/nation/615556/wounded-ecija-inmate-escapes-hospital)).

Records also show that a total of 887 inmates detained in prison facilities under the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), including the New Bilibid Prison (NBP), escaped during the period 2000 up to April 2011 (<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/06/10/11/887-inmates-escaped-last-decade>).

This bill seeks to strengthen the correctional system of the country, promote the general welfare and safeguard the basic rights of every prisoner through the establishment hospital ward for prisoners in all public hospitals throughout the country.

While this may not totally address such concern for effective and efficient custody of inmates and convicts, the proposed measure will nonetheless be a critical factor in resolving this predicament.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the State to promote the general welfare and safeguard the basic rights of every prisoner. Towards this end, the State shall establish an inmates' ward in all public hospitals throughout the country in order to strengthen government capability aimed towards the institutionalization of highly efficient and competent correctional services in the country.

SEC. 2. There shall be established an "inmates' ward" in every government hospital within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. The ward shall be under the supervision of the administration of a public hospital. The inmates' ward shall be for the exclusive use of prisoners who are in need of hospital confinement by reason of their health conditions and safety. However, when urgent reasons of public necessity requiring the immediate use of such ward arise, it may be used for emergency purposes, after which, it shall be reverted to its nature as inmates' ward.

SEC. 3. 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 (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Department of Justice and the Department of Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. 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.

SEC. 6. 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. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,