

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6959**

Introduced By Representative **ALLAN BENEDICT S. REYES**

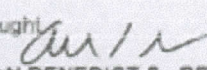
EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Department of Health ("DOH"), oral disease continues to be a serious public health problem in the Philippines. In particular, the prevalence of dental caries on permanent teeth has generally remained above 90% throughout the years.¹ Moreover, about 92.4% of Filipinos have tooth decay (dental caries) and 78% have gum diseases (periodontal diseases).² While they are preventable, these oral diseases regrettably affect almost every Filipino at one point or another in his or her lifetime.³ Hence, the importance of good dental hygiene among our citizens cannot be overemphasized. Needless to say, it is vital to living positive and healthy lives and, consequently, the achievement of the State's policy towards the protection and promotion of the right to health of the people.

Unfortunately, however, most of our Kababayan do not have the financial means to avail of the services of private dentists. Thus, they heavily rely on the services of dentists in public health institutions and those assigned in or working for national government agencies ("NGAs") including state universities and colleges ("SUCs"), government owned and controlled corporations ("GOCCs") and local government units ("LGUs"). In 2017, it is said that in an average, every public dentist caters to 91,000 patients.⁴ To date, the ratio of government dentist to patient remains dismaying, thus, preventing the government from effectively addressing the problems brought about by poor dental hygiene.

In recognition of the important role played by government dentists in maintaining and promoting the oral health of the people, this legislation seeks to reallocate the salary grade levels of all government dentists. By doing so, we aim to augment the current manpower by attracting more competent dentists to join, and the existing ones to remain in, public service. Accordingly, the government will be more able to effectively provide proper oral health services in the entire country, especially those in far-flung areas.

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


HON. ALLAN BENEDICT S. REYES
Representative
3rd District, Quezon City

¹ Dental Health Program available at <http://www.doh.gov.ph/dental-health-program> (last accessed 3 June 2020).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Ratio of dentists' salaries pushed* available at <http://www.philstar.com/the-forum-and-opinion/2017/03/03/1668329/ratio-dentists-salaries-pushed> (last accessed 3 June 2020).

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HOUSE BILL NO. 6959

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**AN ACT TO UPGRADE THE SALARY SCALES OR LEVELS
OF PUBLIC DENTISTS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the ***“Public Dentist Salary***
2 ***Standardization Act of 2020.”***
3

4
5 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution
6 provides that “[the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and
7 instill health consciousness among them.” Under Section 2 of Republic Act 7305 or the
8 Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, it is the declared policy of the State to “instill health
9 consciousness among our people to effectively carry out the health programs and projects
10 to the government essential for the growth and health of the nation.”⁵ Towards this end,
11 the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers aims to, among, others, “promote and improve
12 the social and economic well-being of the health workers, their living and working
13 conditions and terms of employment.”⁶
14

15 Pursuant to these, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the
16 important role played by government dentists in maintaining and promoting the oral health
17 of the people. Thus, the government must ensure that these government dentists are
18 properly compensated and their working and living conditions continuously improved.
19

20
21 **SECTION 3. Coverage.** – This Act shall cover all dentists, regardless of
22 employment status, in all public health institutions, whether nationally or locally funded, as
23 well as those assigned in or working for national government agencies (“NGAs”) including
24 state universities and colleges (“SUCs”), government owned and controlled corporations
25 (“GOCCs”) and local government units (“LGUs”).
26

27
28 **SECTION 4. Upgraded Salary Scales or Levels.** – The following salary scales
29 or levels of Dentist position in the government are hereby upgraded upon the effectivity of
30 this Act:

⁵ Section 2, Republic Act 7305, Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, 26 March 1992.

⁶ *Id.*

Position Title	Old Salary Grade	New Salary Grade
Dentist I	13	17
Dentist II	16	20
Dentist III	19	23
Dentist IV	22	25
Dentist V	24	27
Dentist VI	26	29
Dentist VII	28	30

SECTION 5. Appropriation. – The Government shall appropriate such amount as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act. Initial funds required for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the savings of the Executive Branch of the government and other possible sources that may be determined by the Office of the President. The subsequent funds needed shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the appropriate government office or agency in coordination with all the stakeholders and covered establishments and institutions.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, decrees, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication the *Official Gazette* or in the two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,