

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1152**



Introduced by  
**HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**

and

**HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to covert the Schistosomiasis Control and Research Hospital into a general hospital to be known as the Governor Benjamin T. Romualdez General Hospital and increase its bed capacity from twenty-five (15) to one hundred (100), thereby upgrading its medical services and facilities and authorizing the increase of its medical personnel.

The Schistosomiasis Control and Research Hospital was founded in 1975 by President Ferdinand E. Marcos through Presidential Decree 1062, through the efforts of then Leyte Governor Benjamin T. Romualdez as the research arm of the Schistosomiasis Control and Research Service to provide clinical service to patients with schistosomiasis nationwide. Presently, the hospital has already expanded its medical and ancillary services and attended to patients with various illnesses and diseases, catering to patients coming from Palo, consisting of 33 barangays and the nearby towns of Tanauan, Tolosa, Mayorga, Jaro and Sta. Fe, Samar and as far as Surigao.

From a research hospital focusing on addressing schistosomiasis in the area, the SHRC is continuing to upgrade its facilities, management system and manpower skills to provide the health care needs by its growing number of patients in the region. Indeed, with these commitments, the expanded Gov. Benjamin T. Romualdez will continue to be a beacon of hope in the eastern part of the country.

The 1987 Constitution, Article XIII, Section 11 states, "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services

1 available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs  
2 of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State  
3 shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers." By expanding its  
4 mandate and converting it into a general hospital, this proposed legislation  
5 hopes to strengthen the capacity of the Governor Benjamin T. Romualdez  
6 General Hospital to provide accessible, affordable, equitable, sustainable  
7 quality hospital services to all patients especially the poor.

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

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**Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**  
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

  
**Rep. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**  
Representative, First District of Leyte

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23 **AN ACT CONVERTING THE SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL AND**  
24 **RESEARCH HOSPITAL IN PALO, LEYTE INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO**  
25 **BE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNOR BENJAMIN T. ROMUALDEZ GENERAL**  
26 **HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25)**  
27 **TO ONE HUNDRED (100), UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES**  
28 **AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF**  
29 **ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**  
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31 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of the Representatives of the*  
32 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*  
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34 **Section 1.** The Schistosomiasis Control and Research Hospital in Palo,  
35 Leyte is hereby converted into a general hospital to be known as the Gov.  
36 Benjamin T. Romualdez General Hospital.  
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38 **Section 2.** The authorized bed capacity of the Schistosomiasis Control  
39 and Research Hospital in Palo, Leyte shall be increased from twenty-five (25)  
40 to two hundred (200).  
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1           **Section 3.** The primary mandate of the Gov. Benjamin T. Romualdez  
2 General Hospital for schistosomiasis treatment, management and prevention  
3 and research shall continue to the interest of schistosomiasis patients.  
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5           **Section 4.** The Department of Health shall determine the service  
6 capability of Gov. Benjamin T. Romualdez General Hospital and allow the  
7 development and upgrading of general hospital services.  
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9           **Section 5.** The existing human resource requirement of the Gov.  
10 Benjamin T. Romualdez General Hospital be correspondingly increased to  
11 conform with the aforementioned increase in authorized bed capacity. The  
12 Department of Health in coordination with the Department of Budget and  
13 Management and the Civil Service Commission shall determine and approve  
14 the additional plantilla positions to be created and filled upon prior consultation  
15 and recommendation by the Gov. Benjamin T. Romualdez General Hospital.  
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17           **Section 6.** Existing service facilities and professional healthcare  
18 services are also hereby upgraded to conform with and be commensurate to  
19 the aforementioned increase in authorized bed capacity. The Gov. Benjamin T.  
20 Romualdez General Hospital shall submit to the Department of Health its  
21 proposed hospital development plan and the additional clinical departments  
22 and clinical units it requires to meet the increased authorized bed capacity.  
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24           **Section 7.** The increase in bed capacity of the Gov. Benjamin T.  
25 Romualdez General Hospital shall be implemented for a period of not more  
26 than two (2) years from the approval of this Act.  
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28           **Section 8.** The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the  
29 Department's programs the implementation of the Act, the funding of which  
30 shall be charged against the unappropriated balance of the Department of  
31 Health. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of the

1 Gov. Benjamin T. Romualdez General Hospital shall be included in the annual  
2 General Appropriations Act.

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5 **Section 9.** If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or  
6 invalid, other parts for provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue  
7 to remain in full force and effect.

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9 **Section 10.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or  
10 parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are  
11 deemed amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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13 **Section 11.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following  
14 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2)  
15 newspapers of general circulation.