



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3017



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent and widely-publicized incidents of tourists encountering medical emergencies have brought out into public light the acute lack of adequate basic trauma care, first aid, and baseline general medical care expected of tourism destinations open to both international and domestic visitors.

Underlying this problem and situation is the absence of Department of Tourism standards for medical facilities in resorts. The current standards, put in place in May 2012, only provide for a "first aid facility with trained staff on site" in the wellness category of the standards. Nothing else. This is unacceptable and should not be allowed to persist.

To address this oversight and glaring gap, this bill establishes in every Department of Health regional medical center at least ten (10) trauma and emergency care field facilities in cities and municipalities where there are clusters of tourism resorts.

This bill authorizes the Department of Budget and Management to include funding for trauma and emergency medical care facilities in the Local Government Support Fund.

This bill also requires the Department of Tourism and Department of Health to jointly develop standards for trauma and emergency medical care for all three-star, four-star, and five-star resorts to ensure that all these resorts will have such facilities. These standards must be comparable to minimum international benchmarks within Southeast Asia.

This bill further enables the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) to prioritize, formulate and approve an infrastructure program to build the DOH-operated and privately-operated trauma and emergency care field facilities. This bill also tasks the DOH, TIEZA, and DOT to introduce emergency care and the applicability in the Philippines of international emergency health care insurance of foreign visitors.

The Philippines welcomed over 7.1 million foreign tourists in 2018, compared to 6.6 million in 2017, and 5.96 million in 2016. We need many trauma and emergency care facilities for these foreign visitors and for the millions more Filipinos who travel to the tourism destinations of their own country.

Considering the foregoing, swift passage of this bill is sought.


REP. MARLYN B. ALONTE
Lone District of Biñan



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AN ACT ESTABLISHING REMOTE TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE OUTPOSTS, STANDARDS FOR TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AT TOURISM DESTINATIONS, AND THE APPLICABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE INSURANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Tourism Sector Trauma and Emergency Medical Care Act. "

Sec. 2. Department of Health Regional Remote Trauma Outposts. Remote Trauma and Emergency Medical Care Outposts shall be established as outreach operating units of all Department of Health regional medical centers. Each regional medical center shall have least ten (10) RTEMC Outposts. The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority shall build and equip these RTEMC Outposts in accordance with international standards for similar facilities in Southeast Asia.

Sec. 3. Standards for Trauma and Emergency Medical Care in Tourism Destinations and Resorts. The Department of Health and Department of Tourism shall jointly develop standards for trauma and emergency medical care for all three-star, four-star, and five-star resorts to ensure that all these resorts will have such facilities. These standards shall include affordable health insurance or health maintenance organization (HMO) coverage for all resort clients. These sets of standards must be comparable to minimum international benchmarks within Southeast Asia.

The DOH and DOT shall also establish standards of trauma and emergency medical care applicable to the different classes of cities and municipalities nationwide. The Department of Budget and Management shall include funding for trauma and emergency medical care facilities in the Local Government Support Fund.

Sec. 4. Role of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority. The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority shall prioritize, formulate, approve, and implement an infrastructure program to build DOH-operated and privately-owned and operated trauma and emergency care field facilities nationwide.

Sec. 5. Rapid Emergency Transport, and International Health Care Coverage. The Department of Health, Department of Tourism, and Department of Foreign Affairs shall develop and cause the implementation of measures, linkages, projects, and international executive agreements:

- 1) to operationalize rapid emergency medical transport services in the Philippines and similar services for the transport of patients to medical facilities outside of the Philippines; and
- 2) to enable international health insurance and health maintenance organization coverage, whether government or by private health care providers, acquired overseas for application to covered beneficiaries in the Philippines through licensed health insurance or health maintenance organizations in the Philippines.

Sec. 6. Implementing Guidelines, Rules and Regulations. The Department of Tourism, Department of Health, and Department of Foreign Affairs, in consultation with the Insurance Commission and stakeholders' organizations in the tourism and health care sectors, shall approve the implementing guidelines, rules, and regulations not later than ninety (90) days after this Act takes effect.

Sec. 7. Appropriations. Funding of this Act shall be included in the annual general appropriations. The TIEZA, jointly with the Department of Finance, may also secure augmentation, long-term funding from foreign grants and technical assistance, and through the issuance of government bonds.

Sec. 8. Separability. - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with established internet website presence.

Approved.