

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3719



Introduced by the Honorable Ma. Cynthia “Cindi” K. Chan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, one Filipino develops chronic renal failure every hour or about 120 Filipinos per million population per year. The Department of Health noted that chronic kidney disease, if left untreated, can progress to more severe complications such as End-Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD). ESKD requires more immediate and regular interventions, in the form of renal transplant and hemodialysis.

The cost of a hemodialysis session can range from P2,000 to P7,000 and can last up to four hours. A patient with ESKD may require up to three sessions per week, which can cost anywhere between P6,000 to P21,000 weekly. Since not all government hospitals are equipped to offer hemodialysis treatment, patients needing to avail of this life-saving procedure need to go to private hospitals or hemodialysis clinics.

Thus, this bill seeks to require the establishment of dialysis clinics in all national, regional, and provincial hospitals to make dialysis treatment more accessible to all. Further, this bill proposes that indigent kidney disease patients be provided free dialysis sessions in said dialysis clinics.

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


Ma. Cynthia “Cindi” K. Chan
Lone District, Lapu-Lapu City

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND PROVIDING FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENTS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Dialysis Center Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the 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. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms as used in this Act shall mean the following:

- (a) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Department of Health;
- (b) “National Government Hospital” refers to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the National Government or by any department or division, board, or other agency thereof;
- (c) “Regional Government Hospital” refers to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the Regional Government or by any department, division, board, or other agency thereof;
- (d) “Provincial Government Hospital” refers to a hospital operated and maintained either partially or wholly by the Provincial

Government or by any department, division, board, or other agency thereof; and

- (e) “Indigent Patient” refers to a patient whose combined annual family income does not exceed thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00).

SEC. 4. Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Ward or Unit. – Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, all national, regional, and provincial government hospitals are hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis machine, equipment and supplies.

SEC. 5. Free Dialysis Treatment to Indigent Patients. – Dialysis treatment in all national, regional and provincial government hospitals shall be provided free of charge to indigent patients as defined in Section 3 (e) thereof.

SEC. 6. Penalty. – 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. 7. Implementing Agencies. – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary shall provide the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The IRR shall be published in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. – The amount 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 hospitals’ annual appropriations.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,