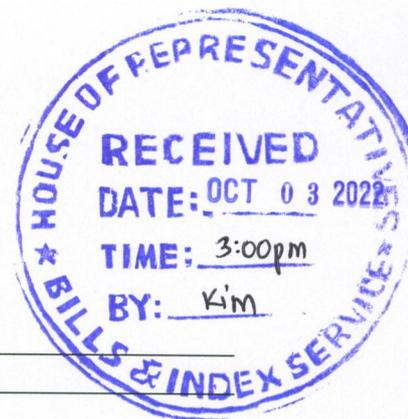


NINETEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 5398

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine General Hospital (PGH) is a tertiary state-owned hospital administered and operated by the University of the Philippines, Manila. It is the largest government hospital administered by the university, and is designated as the National University Hospital. It is the biggest hospital in the country with a 1,500-bed capacity. It is a mixed-use hospital, with 1,000 beds for indigent patients and 500 beds for private patients, and offers some of the lowest rates for patients and is generally known as the hospital for indigent patients. On an average year, about 600,000 patients pass through the hospital's halls.

The emergency room is the hub of medical activities involving all clinical departments of the hospital. Emergency room patients go to the hospital precisely to receive emergency care. As is the normal practice, these emergency room patients do not go alone. They have family or friends accompanying them and wait for them to be treated, their "bantays". It is a fact that as it is, the emergency room of the PGH does not have enough room to allow the "bantays" to stay in the emergency room aside from the fact that these "bantays" may just get in the way of the doctors. These "bantays" are already suffering and stressed enough as it is while waiting, and making them stand outside the emergency room waiting and at the mercy of the weather conditions simply aggravate their situation. It is therefore important that a "Bantay Antayan", similar to the one in front of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital be constructed. This "Bantay Antayan" is where the "bantays" wait and where they can easily be found by the doctors when the need arises.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

NINETEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING IN THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL LOCATED IN MANILA CITY, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, A FACILITY TO BE KNOWN AS BANTAY ANTAYAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) located in Manila City, National Capital Region, a facility to be known as the Bantay Antayan in the vicinity of the Emergency Department, located and designed in accordance with the PGH Master Plan.

SEC. 2. The Bantay Antayan will be used by the relatives, friends, and companions or "bantays" of patients being treated in the Emergency Department of PGH. It may also accommodate medical trainees coming from other provinces and regions.

SEC. 3. The amount of Two hundred million pesos (P200,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the construction of the "Bantay Antayan" facility.

SEC. 4. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,