

Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5804



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**INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS**

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**AN ACT  
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET AND APPROVE  
THE BED CAPACITY OF ITS RETAINED HOSPITALS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Department of Health runs a total of 70 hospitals all over the country: 51 general hospitals and 19 specialty hospitals. These institutions provide healthcare services to millions of patients, most of whom are indigent.

Under the current regulations, government-owned hospitals including the DOH hospitals can only expand their service capabilities and bed capacity via legislation which normally takes a substantial amount of time.

With 30,309 daily inpatients, government hospitals are at 131% overall bed occupancy rate. This figure translates to 75% of hospitals with bed capacity beyond their licensed and authorized authority.

At this rate, the State's goal to achieve Universal Health Care through affordable and accessible health care is challenged by the capacity of hospitals to accommodate the influx of patients as well as the need for adequate staffing, infrastructure, equipment and maintenance and operating resources.

To address these challenges, this bill seeks to authorize the Department of Health to increase the bed capacity of their hospitals and corresponding service capabilities for efficient health service delivery.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently sought.



REP. PM VARGAS  
Fifth District, Quezon City

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*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 “DOH Hospital Bed Capacity Rationalization Act.”

**SECTION 2. Purpose, Scope, and Coverage.** – This Act shall streamline the process for approving changes in the authorized bed capacity of all Department of Health (DOH) retained hospitals.

**SECTION 3. Authority to Approve.** – Authority is hereby granted to the DOH to adjust and approve the authorized bed capacity of its retained hospitals. Thereafter, the DOH shall, by administrative or department order, increase, decrease, or maintain the bed capacity of its retained hospitals, subject to specific guidelines that it shall issue and promulgate, within six months, after the enactment of this law.

**SECTION 4. Appropriations.** – Amounts necessary to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Health.

**SECTION 5. Annual Report to Congress** – The Department of Health shall provide Congress, through the House and Senate Committees on Health, an annual report on hospitals with approved bed capacity changes, along with the necessary funding requirements.

**SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Secretary of Health shall come up with the IRR, within three (3) months after the law’s effectivity.

**SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*