

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2926

Introduced by Hon. Dr. Janette L. Garin

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require all nursing student graduates to serve for at least three (3) years in a private or government hospitals as a pre-requisite for employment in foreign countries to protect the general welfare and health of our people, not to mention the deteriorating quality of health care in general.

Nursing has become one of the most sought after profession here in the Philippines because it is a high paying job in other countries such as the United States of America, Canada, Middle East, European countries, Japan and Singapore etc. Being proficient in English language and generally the good natured and disposition inherent to Filipinos, the demand for nurses in the above-mentioned countries is so great that we are now having a shortage in this field of profession..

It can not be denied that the Philippines has been producing thousands of nurses these past years. The anticipated effect of this will be increased number of nurses and consequent improvement in the quality of health care services. On the contrary, however the exact opposite is happening. Our hospitals have been depleted of quality nurses and the turnover is very fast hence, giving prejudice to the quality of nurses currently serving our hospitals. We have been exporting our nurses to other countries without considering its effect and consequences to our health care system. On the other hand, it seems that we would rather endanger the health and lives of the Filipinos due to shortage of nurses and doctors. In fact, even doctors are studying nursing and leaving our country. Hospitals have become equipped with unexperienced nurses to the prejudice of our patients, of course. The annual outflow of Filipino nurses is now three (3) times greater than the annual production of licensed nurse.

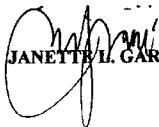
Nursing schools have mushroomed in the last five (5) years and existing ones have doubled their enrollment many times over. It is to be noted that five years ago, only 3,000- 4,000 take the nursing board examination yearly. This year more than 13,200 took the nursing board examination with a passing average of more than fifty percent (50%). All these board passers plan to leave for employment abroad.

It is quite alarming that statistics show that 40,000 Filipino nurses are in Britain. Ireland who used to "export" nurses to the US and Western Europe, have now "imported" 3,000 Filipino nurses and recruitment is still ongoing. There are now about 55,000 Filipino nurses working in the European countries. The Philippines is such a rich recruitment ground for nurses that U. S. based hospitals regularly hold nursing job fairs therein. If this trend continues, the problem will continue to worsen and start to become critical by 2010 when today's nurses begin to retire.

A few years back, the practice was that only nurses who had at least two years experience working in local hospitals are being recruited by foreign health facilities. But lately, because of the great demands, even fresh nursing graduates are being offered jobs with a very lucrative compensation package..

Our hospitals have been losing our nurses to these foreign countries because they can not afford to compete with them in terms of salaries and other benefits. As a results, the ones who have left are the skilled and experienced nurses and this poses serious implications on the quality of health care services.

This bills aims to safeguard our deteriorating health care system. "Mahalin natin ang ating kababayan. The approval of this is highly recommended.



JANETTE L. GARIN, M.D.

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL NURSES TO SERVE IN A PRIVATE OR
GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS AS A
PREREQUISITE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES
AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. All nurses are hereby required to serve in a private or government hospital of their choice for at least three (3) years as a prerequisite for employment in foreign country.

SECTION 2. All nurses applying for employment aboard shall be required to submit certification of service from the hospital he/she has served.

SECTION 3. The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Bureau of Immigration in coordination with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. Any person who shall violate the provision of this Act shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6) years and one day nor more than ten

(10) years, and a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) nor more than One Hundred Thousand pesos (Php100,000.00): Provided, however, That if an association, agency or any entity shall recruit a nurse without the proper certificate of service provided herein, the incumbent officers thereof who have knowingly participated in the violation shall be held liable: Provided, further, That if the offender is an alien, he shall be immediately deported without further proceedings in the Bureau of Immigration and barred forever from entering the country after serving his sentence and paying his fine.

SEC. 5. All laws, orders, rules and regulations and other issuance or parts thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repeal or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,