

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2987

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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Introduced by Representative **ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The unprecedented drop in the prevalence of leprosy in the country necessitated the reassessment of all sanitarium by the Department of Health. This paved way for the conception of the Sanitarium Conversion Plan as part of the DOH Hospital Upgrading Program. After a series of consultations, the DOH ordered the expansion of the legal mandates of all existing sanitarium, including that of the Bicol Sanitarium.

Following a steady increase in the number of elderly patients that it caters to, the conversion and expansion of Bicol Sanitarium intends to specialize in the care of the adult and ageing population, specifically Geriatric Medicines, the first of its kind in Philippine public health service.

In order to provide an integrated and comprehensive approach to the health development of the elderly, it is imperative for the Bicol Sanitarium to secure a mandate that will convert the sanitarium and expand its services. Through this measure, the Bicol Sanitarium will be converted and expanded into the Bicol Regional Geriatric Medical Center (BRGMC) which aims to offer quality, affordable, accessible, comprehensive and exceptional geriatric healthcare, including health services to other members of the population.

As a pioneer government medical facility that is dedicated to the care of the elderly, the BRGMC aims to:

- a) administer and operate an integrated medical facility specializing in services for geriatrics medicine and its sub specialties to complement the existing leprosy and general clinical care services of Bicol Sanitarium;
- b) pursue excellence in promoting and providing medical, scientific research and training relative to the diagnosis, care, treatment and rehabilitation of disease of older persons;
- c) establish a center for research and development in the field of geriatrics medicine;
- d) develop, adopt and implement programs in Geriatric Medicine for education and training of physicians, nurses, health officers, social workers and other medical and technical personnel in the practical and scientific implementation of health services and programs for older persons; and
- e) create and support an environment that encourages holistic approach to geriatrics health care which shall foster and promote productive ageing.

To give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.

Republic of the Philippines  
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**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2987

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE BICOL SANITARIUM IN  
THE MUNICIPALITY OF CABUSAO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, AND  
EXPAND ITS SERVICES TO BECOME THE BICOL REGIONAL GERIATRIC  
MEDICAL CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Bicol Sanitarium  
Conversion and Expansion Act.”

SEC. 2. **Bicol Regional Geriatric Medical Center.** - The Bicol Sanitarium  
located in the Municipality of Cabusao, Province of Camarines Sur is hereby  
converted and expanded into a geriatric medical center to be known as the Bicol  
Regional Geriatric Medical Center (BRGMC).

SEC. 3. **Continued Service and Assistance to Leprosy Patients.** – The  
BRGMC, having the expertise for leprosy treatment and management, shall retain,  
maintain and upgrade its Leprosy Management Services until the disease is totally  
eradicated.

SEC. 4. **Conversion Committee.** – There shall be a Conversion Committee,  
hereinafter referred to as the Committee, which shall be constituted by the  
Department of Health through its Regional Health Office V Director, the Chief of Bicol  
Sanitarium, and the Sanitarium’s medical and non-medical personnel through their  
legal or duly designated representatives, which shall promulgate the following:

a) *Conversion Plan.* - The conversion and expansion scheme, including the proposed timetable for the same, shall be carried out under a conversion plan to be drawn up by the Committee under the supervision of the Central Office of the Department of Health.

b) *Organizational and Staffing Pattern.* – The organizational structure and staffing pattern of the BRGMC shall be determined by the Committee subject to evaluation by the Health Human Resource Development Bureau of the Department of Health, the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Budget and Management to fully operate its original authorized capacity of a 450-bed facility.

SEC. 5. ***Continued Service and Assistance to General Clinical Care.*** – The BRGMC shall continue to support and allow the development and upgrading of the general clinical services and to support other health facilities by complementing their services when higher and more sophisticated examination are needed and available within the institution.

SEC. 6. ***Transfer of Assets and Liabilities.*** – Facilities, land and buildings, and equipment acquired by the Bicol Sanitarium, including its present 150 hectare-land and Bicol Skin Clinic in Legazpi City, as well as its documents, medical and non-medical records, liabilities and obligations are hereby transferred to the BRGMC.

SEC. 7. ***Security of Tenure.*** – The positions, seniority, security and other rights of tenure of medical and non-medical personnel of Bicol Sanitarium shall continue to be honored under the BRGMC.

SEC. 8. ***Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the BRGMC, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations for Bicol Sanitarium. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. ***Supplementary Funding.*** – The Department of Health, Regional Health Office V through its Regional Director and the Medical Center Chief, in coordination with concerned national and local government units, shall also draw up mechanism for sourcing supplementary funds to augment the operations of the BRGMC.

SEC. 10. **Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,