

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3857



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over the past years, we have seen various moves to privatize specialized and regular government hospitals, which I believe will be detrimental for the Filipino people. Thus, the proposal of this bill which seeks to prohibit the privatization of existing government hospitals.

With the maintenance and operating costs of running a hospital continuously increasing, some individuals and groups think that privatizing such institutions would be the best solution. The government will no longer need to fund these hospitals and upgrading and modernizing of facilities will be assured.

But at what cost? Once privatized, treatment in these hospitals will come at a hefty price. The poorest of the poor would no longer be able to access these hospitals for they will not be able to afford the cost of treatment.

These hospitals should remain under the charge of the government so that equal access to quality health care will be assured. As the Philippine Constitution mandates, health services shall be available to all people at affordable cost. The Philippine government should find ways in which to modernize and improve these hospitals without resorting to its privatization.

It is for these reasons that early passage of this proposed measure is highly recommended.


GUS S. TAMBUNTING

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

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 "Government Hospitals' Privatization Prohibition Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to guarantee that quality health care services are readily available, accessible and affordable to all people by prohibiting the privatization of all existing government hospitals.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term "Government Hospital" shall refer to a hospital operated and maintained either in part or in whole by the national, provincial, municipal, or city government of other political subdivision, or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof.

SECTION 4. *Prohibition on Privatization of Government Hospitals.* – It hereby prohibited to privatize, sell, or offer for sale, in part or in whole, any and all government hospitals.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,