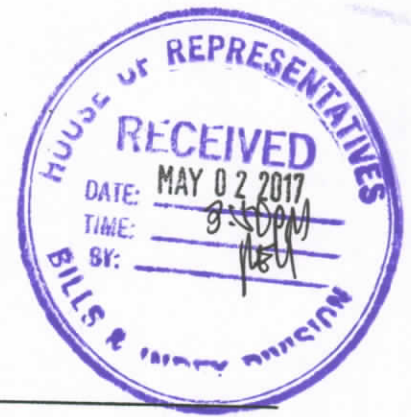


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**Seventeenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5503**



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**Introduced by HONORABLE MARK O. GO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish a dialysis unit in one national government hospital in every province and/or region as well as to provide free dialysis treatment for poor patients suffering from Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

This is pursuant to the Constitutional mandate of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The increasing number of cases of kidney failure in the Philippines is quite alarming. According to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, kidney disease, especially End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), is already the 7th leading cause of death among the Filipinos. One Filipino develops chronic renal failure every hour or about 120 Filipinos per million population per year. More than 5,000 Filipino patients are presently undergoing dialysis and approximately 1.1 million people worldwide are on renal replacement therapy.

Majority of end-stage renal disease among Filipinos is secondary to complications of diabetes, hypertension and chronic glomerulonephritis. As of 2013, there are about 23,000 dialysis patients and only about 300 to 500 kidney transplants are performed annually. There are 7,000 estimated cases of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) waiting for transplant and still escalating every year.

The optimum frequency of dialysis is three times a week, but due to its being costly and inaccessibility mainly in the provinces, patients compromise their health conditions. The cost of a kidney operation ranges from Php600,000 to 1 million pesos while a session of dialysis will cost a patient more or less Php4,000.00. PhilHealth records show that in 2014, hemodialysis posted the most number of filed claims among procedures at 691,489, with a total benefit payments amounting to Php 4,666,806,642.

In 2012, PhilHealth announced that it will subsidize the cost of kidney transplant up to Php600,000 for ESRD patients. In 2015, it expanded its subsidy of dialysis treatment from 45 to 90 sessions annually covering P 2,500.00 per session.

With this very limited subsidy and accessibility of dialysis treatment, it is therefore imperative to establish a dialysis unit in one national government hospital in every province and/or region to cater to our poor patients suffering from Chronic Kidney Disease and avail such procedure free of charge.

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

  
**MARK O. GO**

Republic of the Philippines  
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5503

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**Introduced by HONARABLE MARK O. GO**

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING ONE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN EVERY PROVINCE AND/OR REGION TO ESTABLISH A DIALYSIS UNIT AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO POOR PATIENTS 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 “Regional Dialysis Center Act.”

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** –It is a declared policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The state shall endeavour to provide free medical care to paupers.

*It is also hereby declared as a policy of the State to improve the delivery of health care services to the people and to ensure hospital facilities are available, affordable and accessible to the people.*

**SEC. 3. Identification of National Government Hospitals.** – The Department of Health is hereby authorized to identify one national government hospital in every province and/or region that shall establish and maintain a dialysis unit. The DOH shall consider the status and capability of the hospital including its area and facilities for the establishment of the said dialysis unit.

**SEC. 4. Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a Dialysis Unit.** – Within eighteen (18) months from the effectivity of this Act, the identified national government hospital in every province and/or region is hereby required to establish, operate and maintain a dialysis unit in its hospital. The dialysis unit shall be equipped with complete dialysis machine, equipment and supplies to be managed by qualified medical personnel.

**SEC. 5. Free Dialysis Treatment to Poor Patients.** – Dialysis treatment in the identified national government hospital in every province and/or region shall be provided free of charge to poor patients whose combined annual family income does not exceed to Seventy Two Thousand Pesos (Php 72,000.00).

**SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Secretary of the Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.



**SEC. 7. *Penalty.*** – Any hospital chief, administrator or office-in-charge who refuses to accept poor dialysis patients and/or fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be imposed a penalty of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00).

**SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of Health shall immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.***– If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SEC. 10. *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 are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*