



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 607

Submitted by the Committees on Health, Appropriations, and Ways and Means on
May 23, 2023

Re : House Bill No. 8325

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 479, 1275, 1642, 2058, 4123, 4195, 5114, 5928, 6111, 6949, 7988, and 7996

Sponsors : Reps. Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Elizaldy S. Co, Joey Sarte Salceda, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and Ron P. Salo

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Health, Appropriations, and Ways and Means, to which were referred House Bill No. 479, introduced by Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFW) HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 1275, introduced by Reps. Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, and Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 1642, introduced by Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 2058, introduced by Rep. Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 4123, introduced by Rep. Ron P. Salo, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFW) HOSPITAL AND OFW CARE CENTERS IN ALL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-

RETAINED HOSPITALS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 4195, introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 5114, introduced by Reps. Eric Go Yap, Paolo Z. Duterte, Edvic G. Yap, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, and Jeffrey Soriano, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 5928, introduced by Rep. Christian Tell A. Yap, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFW) HOSPITAL AND OFW CARE CENTERS IN ALL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-RETAINED HOSPITALS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 6111, introduced by Rep. Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFW) HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 6949, introduced by Rep. Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIAL HEALTH FACILITIES FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS TO BE KNOWN AS BAGONG BAYANING FILIPINO HOSPITAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 7988, introduced by Rep. Sandro L. Gonzalez, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

and House Bill No. 7996, introduced by Rep. Midy N. Cua, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. **8325**, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AS A LEVEL III HOSPITAL UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 479, 1275, 1642, 2058, 4123, 4195, 5114, 5928, 6111, 6949, 7988, and 7996, with Reps. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, Ron P. Salo, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Eric Go Yap, Paolo Z. Duterte, Edvic G. Yap, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jeffrey Soriano, Christian Tell A. Yap, Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva, Sandro L. Gonzalez, Midy N. Cua, Elizaldy S. Co, Joey Sarte Salceda, Richard I. Gomez DPA, Marissa "Del Mar" P. Magsino, Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran, Harris Christopher M. Ongchuan, Noel "Bong" N. Rivera, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Shernee A. Tan-Tambut, Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo, Ralph G. Recto, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Emigdio P. Tanjuatco III, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II, David "Jay-jay" C. Suarez, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Rodolfo "Ompong" M. Ordanes, Salvador A. Pleyto, Anthony Rolando T. Golez, Jr., Peter B. Miguel, Angelica Natasha Co, Arlene D. Brosas, France L. Castro, Angelo Marcos Barba, Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., Felimon M. Espares, Jude A. Acidre, Steve Chiongbian Solon, Wilter Y. Palma, Bonifacio L. Bosita, Laarni Lavin Roque, Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, Mark O. Go, Alan "Aldu" R. Dujali, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Caroline L. Tanchay, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Jefferson F. Khonghun, Dante S. Garcia, Daphne A. Lagon, Doris E. Maniquiz, Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Eulogio R. Rodriguez, Fernando T. Cabredo, Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" R. Luistro, Jernie Jett V. Nisay, Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan, Leody "Odie" F. Tarriela, Maria Vanessa C. Aumentado, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Michael M. Morden, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Romulo "Kid" Peña, Jr., Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Divina Grace C. Yu, Richelle Singson, Carlito S. Marquez, Edgar M. Chatto, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Mary Mitzi L. Cajayon-Uy, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Ray T. Reyes, Jose C. Alvarez, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Luz V. Mercado, Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Augustina Dominique "Ditse Tina" C. Pancho, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Maria Rachel J. Arenas, Adrian Jay C. Advincula, Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte, James "Jojo" A. Ang, Jr., Franz Pumaren, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Jane T. Castro, Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III, Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales, Jr., Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Claudine Diana D. Bautista-Lim, Allan U. Ty, Virgilio S. Lacson, Bienvenido M. Abante, Jr., Ronald V. Singson, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Luis N. Campos, Jr., Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Jose "Joboy" S. Aquino II, Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V, Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Matugas II, Raul Angelo "Jil" D. Bongalon, Roy M. Loyola, Mercedes K. Alvarez, Arnie B. Fuentesbella, Jose Maria R. Zubiri, Jr., Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Ching B. Bernos, Rosanna "Ria" V. Vergara, Juan Carlos "Arjo" C. Atayde, Edwin L. Gardiola, Alfelito "Alfel" M. Bascug, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Joseph S. Tan, Dimszar M. Sali, Ambrosio C. Cruz, Jr., Yasser Alonto Balindong, Antonieta R. Eudela, Ma. Rene Ann Lourdes G. Matibag, Sonny "SL" L. Lagon, Drixie Mae S. Cardema, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Wowo Fortes, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Jaime D. Cojuangco, Loreto S. Amante, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Arnan C. Panaligan, Josefina B. Tallado, Patrick Michael D. Vargas, Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon, Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap, Ma. Alana Samantha T. Santos, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, Sergio C. Dagooc, JC Abalos, Mark O. Cojuangco, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, John Tracy F. Cagas, Lordan G. Suan, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Lianda B. Bolilia, Josephine Veronique "Jaye" R. Lacson-Noel, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Janice Z. Salimbangon, Jose "Bong" J. Teves, Jr., Rosemarie Conejos Panotes, Peter John D. Calderon, Solomon R. Chungalao, Wilbert T. Lee, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Stephen James T. Tan, and Florencio Gabriel "Bem" G. Noel as authors thereof.

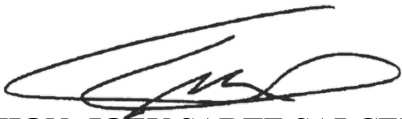
Respectfully submitted:



HON. ELIZALDY S. CO
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



HON. CIRIACO B. GATO, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Health



HON. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
Chairperson
Committee on Ways and Means

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
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Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8325

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 479, 1275, 1642, 2058, 4123, 4195, 5114, 5928, 6111, 6949, 7988, and 7996)

Introduced by Representatives Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, Ron P. Salo, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Eric Go Yap, Paolo Z. Duterte, Edvic G. Yap, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jeffrey Soriano, Christian Tell A. Yap, Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Sandro L. Gonzalez, Midy N. Cua, Elizaldy S. Co, Joey Sarte Salceda, Richard I. Gomez DPA, Marissa “Del Mar” P. Magsino, Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran, Harris Christopher M. Ongchuan, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Shernee A. Tan-Tambut, Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo, Ralph G. Recto, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Emigdio P. Tanjuatco III, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II, David “Jay-jay” C. Suarez, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Salvador A. Pleyto, Anthony Rolando T. Golez, Jr., Peter B. Miguel, Angelica Natasha Co, Arlene D. Brosas, France L. Castro, Angelo Marcos Barba, Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., Felimon M. Espares, Jude A. Acidre, Steve Chiongbian Solon, Wilter Y. Palma, Bonifacio L. Bosita, Laarni Lavin Roque, Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, Mark O. Go, Alan “Aldu” R. Dujali, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Caroline L. Tanchay, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Jefferson F. Khonghun, Dante S. Garcia, Daphne A. Lagon, Doris E. Maniquiz, Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Eulogio R. Rodriguez, Fernando T. Cabredo, Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” R. Luistro, Jernie Jett V. Nisay, Keith Micah “Atty. Mike” D.L. Tan, Leody “Odie” F. Tarriela, Maria Vanessa C. Aumentado, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Michael M. Morden, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Romulo “Kid” Peña, Jr., Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Divina Grace C. Yu, Richelle Singson, Carlito S. Marquez, Edgar M. Chatto, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara, Mary Mitzi L. Cajayon-Uy, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Ray T. Reyes, Jose C. Alvarez, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Luz V. Mercado, Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Augustina Dominique “Ditse Tina” C. Pancho, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Maria Rachel J. Arenas, Adrian Jay C. Advincula, Marlyn “Len” B. Alonte, James “Jojo” A. Ang, Jr., Franz Pumaren, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Jane T. Castro, Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales, Jr., Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Claudine Diana D. Bautista-Lim, Allan U. Ty, Virgilio S. Lacson, Bienvenido M. Abante, Jr., Ronald V. Singson, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Luis N. Campos, Jr., Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Jose “Joboy” S. Aquino II, Faustino “Inno” A. Dy V, Francisco Jose “Bingo” F. Matugas II, Raul Angelo “Jil” D. Bongalon, Roy M. Loyola, Mercedes K. Alvarez, Arnie B. Fuentesbella, Jose Maria R. Zubiri, Jr., Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Ching B. Bernos, Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde, Edwin L. Gardiola, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Joseph S. Tan, Dimszar M. Sali, Ambrosio C. Cruz, Jr., Yasser Alonto Balindong, Antonieta R. Eudela, Ma. Rene Ann Lourdes G. Matibag, Sonny “SL” L. Lagon, Drixie Mae S. Cardema, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Wowo

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AS A LEVEL III HOSPITAL UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Overseas Filipino Workers
2 Hospital Act."

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and
5 comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods,
6 health, and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. To this end, the State
7 shall protect the interest and promote the well-being of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) through
8 the provision of social welfare services in recognition of their importance and contribution to
9 economic development and nation-building.

10
11 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

12
13 a) *Dependents* shall refer to any of the following:

- 14
15 1) The legal spouse entitled by law to receive support from the OFW;
16
17 2) The legitimate, legitimated, legally adopted, or illegitimate child who is
18 unmarried, not gainfully employed, and has not reached twenty-one (21) years of
19 age, or if over twenty-one (21) years of age, is congenitally incapacitated or while
20 still a minor has been permanently incapacitated and incapable of self-support,
21 physically or mentally; or
22
23 3) The parents who are receiving regular support from the OFW;

24
25 b) *OFW* refers to a Filipino who is to be engaged, is engaged, or has been engaged in a
26 remunerated activity in a country of which the said person is not an immigrant
27 citizen, or a permanent resident of, or is not awaiting naturalization, recognition, or
28 admission, whether land-based or sea-based regardless of status; excluding a Filipino
29 engaged under a government-recognized exchange visitor program for cultural and
30 educational purposes. For purposes of this Act, a person engaged in remunerated
31 activity covers a person who has been contracted for overseas employment but has

1 yet to leave the Philippines, regardless of status, and includes "Overseas Contract
2 Workers." The term "OFW" is synonymous with "Migrant Worker."
3

4 **SEC. 4. *Establishment of the Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital as a Level III Hospital.***

5 - There shall be established in the City of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga, a Level III
6 hospital to be known as the Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital (OFWH), which shall be under
7 the direct supervision and control of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). It shall cater
8 primarily to the healthcare needs of OFWs and their qualified dependents, subject to the
9 limitations under existing laws, rules, and regulations: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall
10 prevent the OFWH from accommodating patients other than OFWs or their qualified dependents.
11

12 The Medical Center Chief of OFWH shall, in consultation with the DMW and the
13 Department of Health (DOH), prepare the hospital development plan to reflect the development
14 goals of the hospital including its bed capacity and service capability. Requests for staffing
15 requirements, capital outlay investments, and budgetary needs for operations shall be based on
16 the hospital development plan.
17

18 The DOH shall support the OFWH through the provision of technical assistance,
19 extending capital outlay, and monitoring of the hospital's compliance with standards to deliver
20 quality healthcare.
21

22 **SEC. 5. *Purposes and Objectives.*** - The OFWH shall:
23

- 24 a) Provide comprehensive and total health care services to all migrant workers
25 including Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) contributors,
26 whether active or inactive, their legal dependents, and the general public;
27
- 28 b) Serve as a referral facility for repatriated OFWs needing medical assistance and
29 support while ensuring its participation in the provincial and inter-regional
30 healthcare provider networks to allow for a seamless and coordinated referral system
31 for the medical repatriation program in accordance with Republic Act No. 11223,
32 otherwise known as the "*Universal Health Care Act*";
33
- 34 c) Promote, encourage, engage in, and publish scientific research on the prevention,
35 care, and treatment of occupational diseases common to OFWs, including the
36 underwriting of research on biological, demographic, social, economic, eugenics,
37 physiological aspects of occupational disorders of OFWs, and conduct relevant
38 congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;
39
- 40 d) Develop training programs for medical and allied medical professionals which shall
41 focus on strengthening occupational and migrant health services in the country and
42 the creation of specialized services;
43
- 44 e) Provide 24/7 telehealth services to migrant workers and their families; the service
45 may be extended at the Philippine foreign post or the Philippine Overseas Labor
46 Office to assist in the medical assessment and management of distressed OFWs while
47 awaiting repatriation;
48
- 49 f) Establish the OFWH as a medical facility providing pre-employment medical
50 examination for OFWs;
51

- 1 g) Strengthen health surveillance through the provision of a post-employment or post-
2 arrival medical examination for OFWs, in consonance with Republic Act No. 8042,
3 otherwise known as the "*Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995*," and
4 the DOH's Philippine Migrant Health Program;
5
6 h) Raise public awareness and conduct a massive information drive on the prevention,
7 treatment, and control of diseases common to OFWs, occupational health and safety,
8 and physical fitness; and
9
10 i) Assist and support universities, research institutions, and other hospitals or medical
11 facilities in their studies on health-related concerns of OFWs.
12

13 **SEC. 6. Powers of the OFWH.** – The OFWH shall have the powers to:
14

- 15 a) Acquire and hold, in any manner, property of whatever nature or description, and to
16 dispose of such property under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance;
17
18 b) Contract and be contracted with;
19
20 c) Levy, assess and collect such fees, charges, and assessments as may be necessary or
21 proper to support, finance, and maintain its operation;
22
23 d) Mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey, or otherwise dispose of its properties;
24
25 e) Invest in, and purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease grant, mortgage,
26 sell, transfer or otherwise deal with, real and/or personal properties of every kind and
27 nature, including shares of stock, bonds, notes and other evidence of indebtedness or
28 obligations of other corporations whether government or private;
29
30 f) Solicit and receive donations, endowments, and funds in the form of contributions,
31 whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors subject to existing
32 budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations;
33
34 g) Open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions, and to disburse such
35 funds or invest the same as the DMW Secretary may direct to accomplish or advance
36 the purposes or interest of the hospital;
37
38 h) Invite foreign specialists and similar experts in the various medical fields not
39 available in the country; to train the personnel, trainees, and residents;
40
41 i) Send the personnel to research institutes, medical institutes, or universities for
42 advance training or observation and to attend international or regional conventions,
43 conferences, congresses, and seminars as the Medical Center Chief may deem
44 necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the hospital and subject to
45 the approval of the DMW Secretary; and
46
47 j) Exercise such other powers and functions as may be necessary or incidental for the
48 accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the OFWH.
49

50 **SEC. 7. Duties and Responsibilities of the DMW.** -The DMW shall:
51

- 1 a) Establish a focal office for migration and health in the DMW to ensure that the
2 country's migrant health program is mainstreamed in the plans and programs of the
3 OFWH which shall include:
4
- 5 1) Assistance in identifying, documenting, processing, and approving applications
6 for benefits granted to OFWs and their qualified dependents;
7
- 8 2) Establishment of a referral system within the OFWH to ensure efficient delivery
9 of medical and health care services to OFWs and their qualified dependents;
10
- 11 3) Strengthening of the existing health benefits and medical assistance programs
12 such as subsidies on hospitalization and medical procedures for OFWs and their
13 qualified dependents, subject to the availability of funds and resources; and
14
- 15 4) Active engagement in the Philippine Migrant Health Network, an inter-agency,
16 multi-stakeholder network for migrant health, composed of members from other
17 government, non-governmental agencies, academe, civil society organizations,
18 private sector, and international organizations, to advocate and lobby support for
19 migrant health programs.
20
- 21 b) Formulate and promulgate policies, programs, and plans for the sound
22 administration, maintenance, and operations of the OFWH in consultation with the
23 Medical Center Chief;
24
- 25 c) Determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the OFWH in
26 accordance with the revised compensation and position classification system subject
27 to the evaluation and approval of the DBM and in compliance with the civil service
28 and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations;
29
- 30 d) Appoint and remove OFWH personnel upon the recommendation of the Medical
31 Center Chief subject to civil service rules and regulations and other applicable laws;
32
- 33 e) Create a consultative committee and other necessary mechanisms for the effective
34 participation of land-based and sea-based accredited OFW organizations in the
35 formulation of policies for the effective implementation of programs and measures
36 to attain the objectives of the OFWH;
37
- 38 f) Determine and undertake, in coordination with the Governance Commission for
39 Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations, the appropriate steps for the formal
40 establishment and incorporation of the OFW Hospital in accordance with Republic
41 Act No. 10149, otherwise known as the "*GOCC Governance Act of 2011*"; and
42
- 43 g) Perform such other functions that are necessary for the attainment of the purposes
44 and objectives of this Act.
45

46 **SEC. 8. Medical Center Chief.** – The Medical Center Chief shall be appointed by the
47 President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the DMW Secretary.
48

49 The Medical Center Chief shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
50

- a) Provide overall direction and strategic leadership to the OFWH toward the provision of high-quality health services;
- b) Oversee all managerial and administrative processes and operations of all departments of the OFWH;
- c) Supervise daily activities of functional units;
- d) Ensure high standards in clinical training for medical and allied medical personnel;
- e) Execute, on behalf of the hospital, all contracts and agreements which the hospital may enter into and accomplish and deliver any and all documents relative to such contracts and agreements, subject to the approval of the DMW Secretary;
- f) Represent the hospital in all dealing with other offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Government and all other persons or entities, whether domestic or foreign and whether government or private; and
- g) Exercise such other powers and perform such duties as may be vested or reposed by the DMW.

SEC.9. Duties and Responsibilities of the DOH. - The DOH shall:

- a) Ensure that the necessary permits and licenses to operate the OFWH are obtained, consistent with relevant issuances, rules and regulations;
- b) Endorse and encourage medical specialists in other government hospitals such as the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, National Children's Hospital, and the Philippine General Hospital, to hold clinics in the OFWH;
- c) Establish OFW centers or wards in DOH-retained hospitals to complement the OFWH. The level of OFW services and corresponding facilities in OFW centers or wards and their respective health human resource requirements shall be determined by the DOH, in coordination with stakeholders: *Provided*, That the standards to be adopted thereon shall be consistent with the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan; and
- d) Perform such other functions that are necessary for the attainment of the purposes and objectives of this Act.

SEC. 10. Support from other Government Agencies. - The OWWA shall ensure that existing health benefits and medical assistance programs are strengthened for OFWs and their qualified dependents: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or reduce the existing benefits of OFWs and their dependents provided under Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the "*Universal Health Care Act*."

All other agencies, departments, bureaus, offices, or instrumentalities of the government, including government-owned or-controlled corporations, shall render assistance to the OFWH for the effective implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 11. Congressional Oversight Committee.** - There is hereby created a Joint
2 Congressional Oversight Committee which shall be jointly chaired by the Chairpersons of the
3 Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the House of Representatives Committee on
4 Health. It shall be composed of five (5) members from the Senate and five (5) members from the
5 House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House
6 of Representatives, respectively: *Provided*, That at least one (1) member from each house shall
7 come from the Minority.

8
9 **SEC. 12. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
10 Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation of the concerned departments and
11 agencies. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
12

13 **SEC. 13. Annual Report.** - The DMW shall submit to the President and Congress an
14 annual report on the implementation of this Act.
15

16 **SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the approval
17 of this Act, the DMW shall, in consultation with the DOH, OWWA, and other stakeholders,
18 promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.
19

20 **SEC. 15. Sunset Clause .** - This Act shall lapse upon the incorporation of the OFWH
21 unless Congress shall provide otherwise.
22

23 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
24 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
25 and effect.
26

27 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and
28 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
29 modified accordingly.
30

31 **SEC. 18. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
32 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
33

34 *Approved,*

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 8325

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 479, 1275, 1642, 2058, 4123, 4195, 5114, 5928, 6111, 6949, 7988 and 7996)

(As approved by the Committee on March 15, 2023)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AS A LEVEL III HOSPITAL UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Representatives Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Miguel Luis R. Villafuerte, Tsuyoshi Anthony G. Horibata, Nicolas C. Enciso VIII, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Francisco Paolo P. Ortega V, Ron P. Salo, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Eric Go Yap, Paolo Z. Duterte, Edvic G. Yap, Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo, Jeffrey Soriano, Christian Tell A. Yap, Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, Sandro L. Gonzalez, Midy N. Cua, Elizaldy S. Co, Joey Sarte Salceda, Richard I. Gomez DPA, Marissa “Del Mar” P. Magsino, Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran, Harris Christopher M. Ongchuan, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Shernee A. Tan-Tambut, Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo, Ralph G. Recto, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Emigdio P. Tanjuatco III, Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II, David “Jay-jay” C. Suarez, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Salvador A. Pleyto, Anthony Rolando T. Golez, Jr., Peter B. Miguel, Angelica Natasha Co, Arlene D. Brosas, France L. Castro, Angelo Marcos Barba, Ricardo S. Cruz, Jr., Felimon M. Espares, Jude A. Acidre, Steve Chiongbian Solon, Wilter Y. Palma, Bonifacio L. Bosita, Laarni Lavin Roque, Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, Mark O. Go, Alan “Aldu” R. Dujali, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Caroline L. Tanchay, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Jefferson F. Khonghun, Dante S. Garcia, Daphne A. Lagon, Doris E. Maniquiz, Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr., Eulogio R. Rodriguez, Fernando T. Cabredo, Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” R. Luistro, Jernie Jett V. Nisay, Keith Micah “Atty. Mike” D.L. Tan, Leody “Odie” F. Tarriela, Maria Vanessa C. Aumentado, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Michael M. Morden, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, Romulo “Kid” Peña, Jr., Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Divina Grace C. Yu, Richelle Singson, Carlito S. Marquez, Edgar M. Chatto, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara, Mary Mitzi L. Cajayon-Uy, Reynante U. Arrogancia, Ray T. Reyes, Jose C. Alvarez, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Luz V. Mercado, Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Augustina Dominique “Ditse Tina” C. Pancho, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Maria Rachel J. Arenas, Adrian Jay C. Advincula, Marlyn “Len” B. Alonte, James “Jojo” A. Ang, Jr., Franz Pumaren, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Jane T. Castro, Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales, Jr., Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Claudine Diana D. Bautista-Lim, Allan U. Ty, Virgilio S. Lacson, Bienvenido M. Abante, Jr., Ronald V. Singson, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Luis N. Campos, Jr., Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Jose “Joboy” S. Aquino II, Faustino “Inno” A. Dy V, Francisco Jose “Bingo” F. Matugas II, Raul Angelo “Jil” D. Bongalon, Roy M. Loyola, Mercedes K.

Alvarez, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Jose Maria R. Zubiri, Jr., Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Ching B. Bernos, Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde, Edwin L. Gardiola, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Joseph S. Tan, Dimszar M. Sali, Ambrosio C. Cruz, Jr., Yasser Alonto Balindong, Antonieta R. Eudela, Ma. Rene Ann Lourdes G. Matibag, Sonny “SL” L. Lagon, Drixie Mae S. Cardema, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Wowo Fortes, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Jaime D. Cojuangco, Loreto S. Amante, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Arnan C. Panaligan, Josefina B. Tallado, Patrick Michael D. Vargas, Emmarie “Lolypop” Ouano-Dizon, Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap, Ma. Alana Samantha T. Santos, Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano, Sergio C. Dagooc, JC Abalos, Mark O. Cojuangco, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, John Tracy F. Cagas, Lordan G. Suan, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Lianda B. Bolilia, Josephine Veronique “Jaye” R. Lacson-Noel, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Janice Z. Salimbangon, Jose “Bong” J. Teves, Jr., Rosemarie Conejos Panotes, Peter John D. Calderon, Solomon R. Chungalao, Wilbert T. Lee, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Stephen James T. Tan, and Florencio Gabriel “Bem” G. Noel

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (PRIMARY)

Committee Chairperson: REP. CIRIACO B. GATO, JR.

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (SECONDARY)

Committee Chairperson: REP. ELIZALDY S. CO

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS (SECONDARY)

Committee Chairperson: REP. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA

OBJECTIVE

- To establish a government specialty hospital that shall provide comprehensive health care services to all Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), including Overseas Workers Welfare Administration contributors, whether active or inactive, their legal dependents, and the general public.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Establishes a level III hospital to be known as the Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital (OFWH), under the direct control and supervision of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) which shall primarily cater to the healthcare needs of OFWs and their qualified dependents;
- Mandates the OFWH to:
 - a) Serve as a referral facility for repatriated OFWs needing medical assistance and support while ensuring its participation in the provincial and inter-regional healthcare provider networks to allow for a seamless and coordinated referral system for the medical repatriation program in accordance with Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act";
 - b) Promote, encourage, engage in, and publish scientific research on the prevention, care, and treatment of occupational diseases common to OFWs, including the underwriting of research on biological, demographic, social, economic, eugenics, physiological aspects of occupational disorders of OFWs, and conduct relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;

- c) Establish training programs for medical and allied medical professionals which shall focus on strengthening occupational and migrant health services in the country and the creation of specialized services;
 - d) Provide 24/7 telehealth services to migrant workers and their families;
 - e) Establish the OFWH as a medical facility providing pre-employment medical examination for OFWs;
 - f) Strengthen health surveillance through the provision of a post-employment or post-arrival medical examination for OFWs; and
 - g) Assist and support universities, research institutions, and other hospitals or medical facilities in their studies on health-related concerns of OFWs.
- Grants the following powers to the OFWH:
 - a) Acquire and hold in any manner, property of whatever nature or description, and dispose of such property under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance;
 - b) Contract and be contracted with;
 - c) Levy, assess and collect such fees, charges, and assessments as may be necessary or proper to support, finance, and maintain its operation;
 - d) Invest in, and purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease grant, mortgage, sell, transfer or otherwise deal with, real and/or personal properties of every kind and nature, including shares of stock, bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness or obligations of other corporations whether government or private;
 - e) Solicit and receive donations, endowments, and funds in the form of contributions, whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors; and
 - f) Open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions, and disburse such funds or invest the same as the DMW Secretary may direct to accomplish or advance the purposes or interests of the hospital.
- Mandates the DMW to:
 - a) Establish a focal office for migration and health within the DMW to ensure that the country's migrant health program is mainstreamed in the plans and programs of the OFWH;
 - b) Formulate and promulgate policies, programs, and plans for the sound administration, maintenance, and operations of the OFWH in consultation with the Medical Director;
 - c) Determine the organizational structure, staffing pattern, list of plantilla positions, salaries, and compensation of the OFWH personnel in accordance with the salary standardization law and civil service rules and regulations and subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management;

- d) Create a consultative committee and other necessary mechanisms for the effective participation of land-based and sea-based accredited OFW organizations in the formulation of policies for the effective implementation of programs and measures to attain the objectives of the OFWH; and
 - e) Determine and undertake, in coordination with the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations, the appropriate steps for the formal establishment and incorporation of the OFW Hospital in accordance with Republic Act No. 10149, otherwise known as the "GOCC Governance Act of 2011." The OFWH Act shall lapse upon the incorporation of the OFWH unless Congress shall provide otherwise.
- Mandates the Department of Health (DOH) to:
 - a) Establish OFW centers or wards in DOH-retained hospitals to complement the OFWH in accordance with the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan;
 - b) Endorse and encourage medical specialists in other government hospitals such as the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, National Children's Hospital, and the Philippine General Hospital, to hold clinics in the OFWH; and
 - c) Ensure that the necessary permits and licenses to operate the OFWH are obtained, consistent with relevant issuances, rules and regulations;
 - Creates a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee which shall be jointly chaired by the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and the House of Representatives Committee on Health. It shall be composed of five (5) members from the Senate and five (5) members from the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively: *Provided*, That at least one (1) member from each house shall come from the Minority.

RELATED LAWS

- Republic Act No. 8042, otherwise known as the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995."
- Republic Act No. 10022, entitled "An Act Amending Republic Act No. 8042, Otherwise Known As The Migrant Workers And Overseas Filipinos Act Of 1995, As Amended, Further Improving The Standard Of Protection And Promotion Of The Welfare Of Migrant Workers, Their Families And Overseas Filipinos In Distress, And For Other Purposes."
- Republic Act No. 10149, otherwise known as the "GOCC Governance Act of 2011."
- Republic Act No. 11332, otherwise known as the "Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act."

- Republic Act No. 11641, otherwise known as the "Department of Migrant Workers."
- Executive Order No. 154, Series of 2021, Directing the Establishment of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Hospital, Creating the Inter-Agency Committee on the OFW Hospital, and for other Purposes.