

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 2046

Introduced by: Hon. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipinos are well-known for putting their dental health in the least priority. The 2011 National Monitoring and Evaluation Dental Survey (NMEDS) conducted by the the Department of Health (DOH) shows that the prevalence of dental caries (cavities) among all age groups Filipinos is 87.4%, while 48.3% for periodontal disease.¹

A majority of the Filipino population is in the rural areas where the income of many is meager and the access to sufficient dental service is limited. In effect, many of these people heavily rely on public health services which are given free, save major operations, medicines and costly dental procedures such as the construction of dentures, restorations, root canal therapy and major oral surgery.

As it stands, so much more needs to be done to improve the oral health of the country. Up until today, the dentists-to-patient ratio is at 1:50,000 which particularly makes it difficult for public dentists to completely reduce. In addition to this, there are only very few licensed dentists who intend to work in the government given the visible difference in the earnings of public versus private dental practitioners.

Thus, this legislation seeks to upgrade the salary grades of all government dentists in recognition of their important role in maintaining and promoting the oral health of the people

¹ NMEDS, 2011.

and to encourage them to render public service with utmost dedication, commitment and professionalism.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristine Alexie B. Tutor', positioned above the printed name.

HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

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AN ACT
TO UPGRADE THE SALARY SCALES OR LEVELS OF PUBLIC DENTISTS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Public Dentist Salary Standardization Act of 2022.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” Under Section 2 of Republic Act 7305 or the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, it is the declared policy of the State to “instill health consciousness among our people to effectively carry out the health programs and projects to the government essential for the growth and health of the nation.”² Towards this end, the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers aims to, among others, “promote and improve the social and economic well-being of the health workers, their living and working conditions and terms of employment.”³

Pursuant to these, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the important role played by government dentists in maintaining and promoting the oral health of the people. Thus, the government must ensure that these government dentists are properly compensated and their working and living conditions continuously improved.

SECTION 3. Coverage. — This Act shall cover all dentists, regardless of employment status, in all public health institutions, whether nationally or locally funded, as well as those assigned in or working for national government agencies (NGAs) including state universities and colleges (SUCs), government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and local government units (LGUs).

² Section 2, Republic Act 7305, Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, 26 March 1992.

³ *Id.*

SECTION 4. *Upgraded Salary Scales or Levels.* — The following salary scales or levels of Dentist position in the government are hereby upgraded upon the effectivity of this Act:

Position Title	Old Salary Grade	New Salary Grade
Dentist I	13	17
Dentist II	16	20
Dentist III	19	23
Dentist IV	22	25
Dentist V	24	27
Dentist VI	26	29
Dentist VII	28	30

SECTION 5. *Appropriation.* — The Government shall appropriate such amount as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act. Initial funds required for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the savings of the Executive Branch of the government and other possible sources that may be determined by the Office of the President. The subsequent funds needed shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of its provisions shall be formulated by the appropriate government office or agency in coordination with all the stakeholders and covered establishments and institutions.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, decrees, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue in operation and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in the two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.