

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1939, June 22, 1957]

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FREE BEDS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND/OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL WARDS OR HOSPITALS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

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

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the government to provide at least one free general hospital bed for every five thousand population in each province.

SEC. 2. In order to realize this end, the construction of hospital buildings and the operation and maintenance of all free beds in government hospitals shall be financed from contributions among the Municipal, City, Provincial, and National Governments concerned, at the following prescribed fixed rates:

- a. Every Municipal or City government belonging to the second and first class groups, shall contribute five (5%) *per centum* of its annual general income for the support of the general hospital or hospitals in the province, and the municipalities belonging to the third and fourth class groups shall contribute three (3%) *per centum* of its annual general income, but when a hospital is established in a particular municipality or city, the municipality or city concerned shall contribute at least seven (7%) *per centum* of its annual general income: Provided, That the City of Manila shall contribute only one (1%) *per centum* of its annual general income which shall be equally divided among government general hospitals under the Bureau of Hospitals in Manila for their operation and maintenance and/or for expansion purposes: *Provided further*, That municipalities which are situated beyond 35 kilometers from the nearest national or provincial hospital by ordinary land transportation or beyond 20 kilo meters by water transportation, shall only contribute four (4%) *per centum* of their annual general income, if the municipalities belong to the first and second class, and two (2%) *per centum* if the municipalities belong to the third and fourth class: *And provided, finally*, That municipalities of the fifth class shall not be required to pay the contribution provided in this Section.
- b. Cities or municipalities operating and maintaining or which shall operate and maintain public general hospitals are exempt from the provisions of this Section: *Provided*, That these hospitals conform