

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1082, June 15, 1954]

AN ACT STRENGTHENING HEALTH AND DENTAL SERVICES IN THE RURAL AREAS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. *Nomenclature.*—The District Health Officers shall henceforth be called Provincial Health Officers, and the Presidents of Sanitary Divisions, Municipal Maternity and Charity Clinic Physicians and Heads of Units of the Rural Health Units (FOA/PHILCUSA) of the Bureau of Health, shall henceforth be named Municipal Health Officers.

SEC. 2.

- a. There shall be in each province a Provincial Health Officer, and in each congressional district, a Public Health Dentist: *Provided, however,* That a congressional district having a population of over one hundred fifty thousand shall have an additional Public Health Dentist. The existing charity dentists under the Bureau of Hospitals financed by the Sweepstakes aid and national fund and the dentists under the Bureau of Health shall constitute the nucleus for the dental service in the one hundred and two Congressional Districts: *And, provided, further,* That the positions of Public Health Dentists shall be created immediately upon the approval of this Act so that each congressional district shall have one dentist.
- b. There shall be created rural health units of two classes: one of category one or senior rural health unit consisting of one municipal health officer as head of the unit, one public health nurse, one midwife, and one sanitary inspector; another of category two or junior rural health unit consisting of one physician or public health nurse as head of the unit and one midwife or sanitary inspector. Each municipality or group of municipal districts having a population of not less than five thousand shall have a rural health unit of category one: *Provided, however,* That a municipality with more than Thirty-five thousand inhabitants shall have an additional rural health unit of category two. If the public service so demands, the Director of Health, upon approval of the Secretary of the Department of Health, can regroup neighboring barrios and assign to each group a rural health unit of whatever category the circumstances warrant.
- c. To take care of the distribution of drugs and medicines for the use in the rural areas, there shall be created four positions of pharmacists to be detailed in the central office of the Bureau of Health. These pharmacists may, from time to time, be assigned to the provinces as conditions warrant.

SEC. 3. The existing Presidents of Sanitary Divisions, Municipal Maternity and Charity Clinic Physicians, and Heads of the Units of the Rural Health Units (FOA/PHILCUSA) of the Bureau of Health shall be the Municipal Health Officers to head the