

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 2375



Introduced by Congressman Jose G. Solis

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require automatic enrollment of all citizens in the National Health Insurance Program.

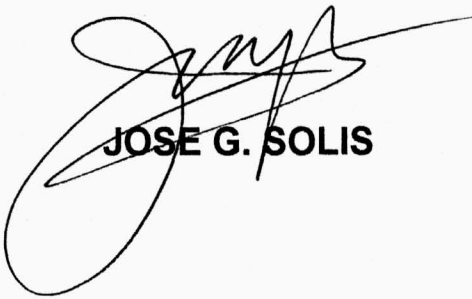
Health is wealth. It is both a means and an end of development. Healthy citizens are essential to bring about faster economic development and better quality of life. Thus, the government provides several health care programs to the people. Among these is the National Health Insurance Program designed to help the people pay for their health care services.

A review of the Program would reveal, however, the need to strengthen the delivery of health care services to the people. Under the National Health Insurance Program, automatic membership is extended to beneficiaries of MEDICARE, SSS, and GSIS members, retirees, pensioners, and their dependents, but requires indigents and the unemployed to first enroll in the Program by complying with several requirements. Many are still deprived of the benefits of the Program, particularly the marginalized sector. A survey by the Department of Health showed that individuals belonging to poor families have a high degree of mortality since they cannot avail of the necessary health care services.

The primary concern of the Program should be uplift the plight of the poor, to make open and free health care services readily

accessible. The Program should give highest priority of coverage to the entire population with the basic minimum package of health insurance benefits. Automatic enrollment of all citizens of the Philippines in the Program will significantly address the country's health needs and problems.

Thus, this bill, approval of which is earnestly recommended.



JOSE G. SOLIS

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AN ACT
PROVIDING THAT ALL CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL
AUTOMATICALLY BE ENROLLED IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995.

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

SECTION 1. Section 6 of Republic Act no. 7875 is hereby
amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 6. **Coverage.** – All citizens of the Philippines shall
AUTOMATICALLY BE ENROLLED AND be covered by the
National Health Insurance Program. [In accordance with the
principles of universality and compulsory coverage enunciated
in Section 2(b) and 2(1) hereof, implementation of the Program
shall, furthermore, be gradual and phased in over a period of
not more than fifteen (15) years: *Provided*, That the Program
shall not be made compulsory in certain provinces and cities
until the Corporation shall be able to ensure that the members

in such localities shall have reasonable access to adequate and acceptable health care services.”]

SEC. 2. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 7. **Enrollment.** – The Program shall AUTOMATICALLY enroll ALL CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES AS beneficiaries in order for them to be placed under coverage that entitles them to avail of benefits with the assistance of the financial arrangements provided by the Program. The process of enrollment shall include the identification of beneficiaries, issuance of appropriate documentation specifying eligibility to benefits, and indicating how membership was obtained or is being maintained. The enrollment shall proceed in accordance with these specific policies:

X X X

SEC. 3. Section 46 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

X X X

“ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED, TO AUGMENT THE HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDS FROM THE RESPECTIVE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) AND THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO), EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) THEREOF.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,