

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL No. 1628

Introduced by HONORABLE EUFRANIO C. ERIGUEL, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution, it is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. It is said that citizen's health is important in pushing for the country's Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

While Republic Act No. 7875, otherwise known as the "National Health Insurance Act of 1995," was enacted to ensure accessibility and affordability of health care coverage to all citizens, the country has not completely reached its objective. Under the Program, automatic membership is extended to beneficiaries of MEDICARE, SSS, and GSIS members, retirees, pensioners, and their dependents, but requires indigents, domestic helpers and the unemployed to first enroll in the Program by complying with several requirements. Moreover, aside from the lack of mandatory coverage to all Filipino citizens, the quality and quantity of health care has failed to address the health needs of the people.

This bill seeks to address this disparity by ensuring that all the benefits under Republic Act 7875 are made available to every Filipino citizen, thus requiring the

automatic enrollment of all citizens in the National Health Insurance Program. This proposed measure gives highest priority in extending the maximum coverage to the 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.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the bill is earnestly sought.



REPRESENTATIVE EUFRANIO "FRANNY" ERIGUEL, M.D.

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AN ACT

TO ENSURE THE MANDATORY UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE COVERAGE OF
ALL FILIPINOS TO BASIC HEALTHCARE SERVICES, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "*Mandatory Universal*
2 *Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino Act of 2010.*"

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - Pursuant to Section 15, Article 11 of the
4 1987 Constitution the State hereby declares the policy of protecting and promoting the
5 right to health of the people and instilling health consciousness among them. Towards
6 this end, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
7 development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social
8 services available to every Filipino at affordable cost.

1 **SECTION. 3. *Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino.* -**

2 Every Filipino citizen shall be entitled to mandatory universal health care coverage by
3 their immediate and automatic inclusion in the Philippine Health Insurance coverage and
4 membership as provided for under Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, otherwise known
5 as the "National Health Insurance Act of 1995". Accordingly, all the benefits under R.A.
6 No. 7875 as amended shall also be made applicable and available to every Filipino
7 citizen: *Provided*, That contribution of indigent members shall be funded by the National
8 Government through the General Appropriations Act, without prejudice to other sources
9 of contribution.

10 **SECTION 4.** Section 6 of R.A. No. 7875 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 "Sec. 6. *Coverage.* - All citizens of the Philippines shall
12 AUTOMATICALLY be enrolled and be covered by the National
13 Health Insurance Program. In accordance with the principles of
14 universality and compulsory coverage enunciated in Section 2(b)
15 and 2(1) hereof, implementation of the Program shall, furthermore,
16 be gradual and phased in over a period of not more than fifteen (15)
17 years: *Provided*, That the Program shall not be made compulsory in
18 certain provinces and cities until the Corporation shall be able to
19 ensure that the members in such localities shall have reasonable
20 access to adequate and acceptable health care services."

21
22 **SECTION 5.** Section 7 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as
23 follows:

1 “Sec.7. *Enrollment.* – The Program shall automatically enroll all
2 citizens of the Philippines as beneficiaries in order for them to be
3 placed under coverage that entitles them to avail of benefits with the
4 assistance of the financial arrangements provided by the Program.
5 The process of enrollment shall include the identification of
6 beneficiaries, issuance of appropriate documentation specifying
7 eligibility to benefits, and indicating how membership was obtained
8 or is being maintained. The enrollment shall proceed in accordance
9 with these specific policies:”

10 **SECTION 6.** Section 46 of the same Act is hereby further amended to read as
11 follows:

12 X X X

13 “Additional amounts are hereby authorized to be appropriated, to
14 augment the health insurance funds from the respective annual
15 earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
16 (PAGCOR) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO),
17 equivalent to five percent (5%) thereof.”

18 **SECTION 7. *Information Campaign.*** – A three-month intensive public
19 information campaign shall be undertaken by the Department of Health and the
20 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) prior to the implementation of the rules
21 and regulations of this Act.

22 **SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Secretary of Health, in
23 coordination with the PHIC shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,

1 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the
2 provisions of this Act.

3 **SECTION 9. *Oversight Provision.*** Congress shall conduct a bi-annual review of
4 the management and implementation of the performance and program herein enacted.

5 **SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.*** If any part or provision of this Act shall be
6 held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions which are not affected thereby shall
7 remain valid and in full force and effect.

8 **SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, including R.A. No. 7875 as
9 amended, decrees orders, rules and regulations or other issuance inconsistent with the
10 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11 **SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
12 after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

13

14 Approved,