

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1965

Introduced by REP. MARK A. VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

Pursuant to the said Constitutional mandate, Republic Act 7875 of the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 was enacted. Among others, the law specifically provides that accessibility to these health care services are accorded to all Filipinos where the underprivileged are given utmost priority.

However, despite the State Policy to prioritize the underprivileged, househelpers and housemaids remain to be excluded from the law's coverage. It could not be gainsaid that housemaids and househelpers deserve more than what they get. As such, this bill aims to remain true to the said Constitutional mandate and state policy. The proposal for this bill does not only stem from the compassion that they deserve but also from the basic principle of social justice which this chamber should continuously uphold.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.



MARK A. VILLAR
Representative
Lone District of Las Piñas City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1965

Introduced by REP. MARK A. VILLAR

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY COVERAGE OF ALL
HOUSEHELPERS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM (NHIP) UNDER THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH
INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH)**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Objective.** - This Act seeks to provide for the mandatory
2 coverage of househelpers in the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)
3 under the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987
5 Constitution declares that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive
6 approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods,
7 health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.
8 Priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and
9 children shall be recognized. Likewise, it shall be the policy of the State to
10 provide free medical care to paupers.

11 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** - All househelpers shall be covered by the Program
12 regardless of the wages they receive from their employers: Provided, That all
13 househelpers currently eligible for benefits under the Social Security System
14 (SSS) shall automatically be made members of the NHIP.

15 **SEC. 4. Enrollment.** - All househelpers shall enroll in the Program in order
16 for them to be placed under coverage that entitles them to avail of the benefits
17 and the financial assistance provided therein: Provided, That the beneficiaries
18 under this Act shall be issued appropriate documentation specifying eligibility to
19 benefits and indicating how benefit was obtained or is being maintained.

20 **SEC. 5. Contributions.** - The employers of the househelpers shall pay the
21 monthly contributions as provided for by law: Provided, That the monthly

1 contributions shall not exceed three percent (3%) of the househelpers' monthly
2 salary and shall not be deducted from the latter.

3 **SEC. 6. Penalties for Violation.** - Failure of the employer to remit to
4 PhilHealth his/her corresponding contribution shall not be a reason for depriving
5 the beneficiary of the benefits under the law. Such failure will, however, subject
6 the erring or negligent employer to the penalties provided by law, without
7 prejudice to the right of PhilHealth to collect full reimbursement for honoring a
8 properly filed claim.
9

10 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** -Any law, executive order, letter of instruction
11 or any part thereof which is inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act is
12 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

13 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
15 circulation.

Approved,