

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 3921

Introduced by: HON. LORETO LEO S. OCAMPOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State envisions a country of men and women at the prime of health and optimal wellness. In its declaration of principles and state policies, it incorporated the following:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”.

It also provides for “adequate social services, xxx and an improved quality of life for all”.

In consonance with its policy, a National Health Insurance Program for all Filipinos and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) was established to ensure sustainable, affordable and progressive social health insurance which endeavors to influence the delivery of an accessible quality health care for all Filipinos. PhilHealth provides its members with inpatient care benefits that they may avail of in accredited government and private hospitals.

The PhilHealth’s Indigent Program (IP) was established as an insurance plan for the poor. The premium is subsidized by the local government budget. The IP covers care in public rural health units (RHUs) and in hospitals. However, because there are limitations to PhilHealth benefits and there are times that the Indigent member exceeds inpatient allowance, they are constrained to leave the hospital surreptitiously although unwell, to escape the balance of the hospital fees due them.

This bill seeks to bolster the ideology that healthcare services must be made available and accessible to all especially to the underprivileged. It proposes the government to assume the balance not covered by the inpatient care benefits to lessen the economic burden of the poor members of the society.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LORETO LEO S. OCAMPOS
Representative
2nd District, Misamis Occidental

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Introduced by: **HON. LORETO LEO S. OCAMPOS**

AN ACT PROVIDING SETTLEMENT OF HOSPITAL FEES IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT COVERED BY THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR INDIGENT MEMBERS

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act may be known as the **PHILHEALTH INDIGENT MEMBERS HOSPITAL PRIVILEGE ACT**.

SECTION 2. Definition. –

- a. **Indigent** - A person who has no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of his family, as identified the Local Health Insurance Office and based on specific criteria set by the PhilHealth Corporation.
- b. **Excess Hospital Fee.** – The balance of hospital charges after deducting the allowances provided for by the coverage of the PhilHealth Program.

SECTION 3. Identification of Indigent Members. – The identification of indigent members shall be undertaken through the conduct of a social research survey, referred to as the means test, to determine the current socio-economic and health profile of the indigent sector in each LGU. The Community-Based Information System – Minimum Basic Needs (CBIS-MBN) approach administered at the barangay level by the City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (C/MSWDO) and/or the Barangay along with a government accredited people's organization and shall be inter-phased with the means test protocol. The Corporation, however, reserves the right to adopt other means test mechanisms as it may deem appropriate.

SECTION 4. Annual Evaluation of the List of Indigents. – The list of indigent members shall be evaluated every year through a procedure prescribed by the Corporation in coordination with the concerned LGU.

SECTION 5. Provision for the Settlement of Excess Hospital Fee. – The National Government thru PhilHealth shall assume the balance not covered by the revised inpatient care benefits as provided for by PhilHealth.

SECTION 6. Implementing Agency. – The Department of Health and PhilHealth implementing agencies for this Act. The above agencies shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.



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