

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4235

Introduced by Honorable Rogelio J. Espina, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation is a sign of a country's progress and development. It provides the much needed healthcare service for the public at a much lesser cost.

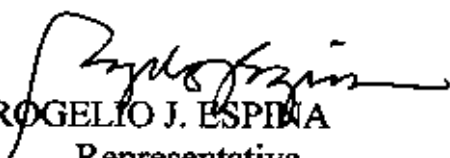
However, despite the valour of the Philhealth law, some services must necessarily be added to improve it and to fully serve the public in accordance to what is needed and being demanded.

Based on the present Philhealth law, the expenses for the medicines are being reimbursed by Philhealth based on the coverage of the holder. In case the expenses exceed the coverage, the same is no longer reimbursable. No question that medicines from pharmacies in the hospitals are cheaper than those outside. Apparently, however, medicines from hospital pharmacies are not enough for those hospitalized, forcing them to buy medicines outside at a much higher cost. Such fact diminishes the significance of the Philhealth law, which is to provide the underprivileged an affordable healthcare service.

Hence, this bill seeks to establish or at least designate a Philhealth pharmacy in every affiliated hospitals from both private and government. Not only to lessen

or hopefully to remove from the deprived public the burden of buying expensive medicines and being reimbursed for less but also to cut short the process of reimbursement. Thereby, making the Philhealth law more effective and more efficient.

Early passage of the bill is, therefore, earnestly sought.



ROGELIO J. ESPINA
Representative
Lone District of Biliran

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4235

Introduced by Honorable Rogelio J. Espina, M.D.

**AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7875 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN
"ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR ALL
FILIPINOS AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE
CORPORATION FOR THE PURPOSE"**

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

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION. 1. *Statement of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of Philhealth in providing health and social services to the people at affordable cost. Thus, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide an additional health service to effectively and fully perform its mandate and efficiently help the deserving public.

Toward this end, the principal thrusts of this program under this Act shall be:

a) To include as one of the services of Philhealth the establishment of a Philhealth Pharmacy in every Government affiliated hospitals or designate an existing hospital Pharmacy to function as a Philhealth Pharmacy at the same time, thereby amending Section 5 of RA 7875 to read as follows:

*"There is hereby created the National Health Insurance Program which shall
provide health insurance coverage and ensure affordable, acceptable,*

available and accessible health care services for all citizens of the Philippines, in accordance with the policies and specific provisions of this Act. This social insurance program shall serve as the means for the healthy to help pay for the care of the sick and for those Medicare and be expanded progressively to constitute one universal health insurance program for the entire population. The Program shall include a sustainable system of funds constitution, collection, management and disbursement for financing the availment of a basic minimum package and other supplementary packages of health insurance benefits by a progressively expanding proportion of the population.

This program will likewise include providing and dispensing drugs and pharmaceuticals through a Philhealth Pharmacy, as the the Pharmaceutical Law may allow. It shall be prohibited, however, from providing health care directly, from employing physicians and other professionals for the purpose of directly rendering care, and from owning or investing in health care facilities, except the Philhealth Pharmacy"

SEC. 2. *The Objectives of this act are as follows:*

- (a) To provide better, more extensive and more efficient services to the holders and their dependents, and;
- (b) To uphold its commitment to strengthen preventive and promotive health care.

SEC. 3. ***Period of Implementation*** – The establishment and designation of a Philhealth Pharmacy on every affiliated hospitals under this Act shall be implemented over a period of 1 year from the approval of this Act.

ARTICLE II

SEC. 4. ***Appropriations*** –The computerization and establishment of Philhealth Pharmacy shall be considered an administration cost, being necessary for the effective management of the Program, which shall be charged to the funds under the management and control of the Corporation.

ARTICLE III – TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SEC. 5. ***Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least three (3) national newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.
