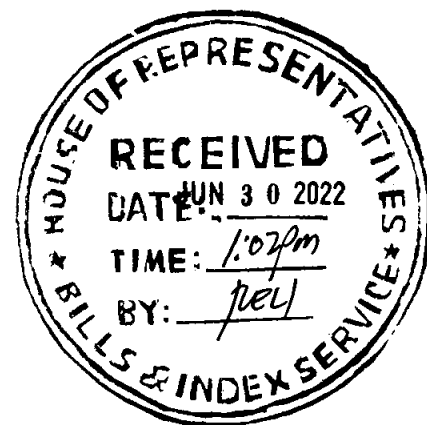


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 85



Introduced by REP. MARJORIE ANN A. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the key goals of the Universal Health Care Act is to ensure that all Filipinos are health literate and have access to promotive and preventive health services without causing financial hardship. With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, people have become naturally compelled to take good care of their health. Apart from eating healthier food, adopting an active lifestyle, and wearing of face masks, maintaining our health today also requires that we continuously monitor ourselves for any early signs and symptoms of diseases, particularly the non-communicable ones.

Data from 2021 showed that ischemic heart diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, and COVID-19 are the leading causes of mortality in the country. Other common causes of death are neoplasms (cancer) and diabetes mellitus. Note that COVID-19 is the only communicable disease in the list, while the rest are non-communicable and, often, chronic and lifestyle-related. As lifestyle-related diseases, most of them are considered manageable and preventable. With proper monitoring and regular check-ups, physicians and other health professionals can easily diagnose and monitor the development of such diseases.

It is therefore necessary that annual check-ups be made available to Filipinos. Hence, this bill proposes that all Filipinos be entitled to a free annual medical check-up, by virtue of their membership to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). This annual check-up shall include blood sugar and cholesterol tests which are vital in detecting risks for common heart and cerebrovascular diseases. Also, the coverage of these laboratory and diagnostic tests shall be expanded subject to availability of PhilHealth funds.

Under this bill, PhilHealth shall ensure that all Filipinos be accorded the health care services they deserve, thereby allowing Filipinos to enjoy the benefits of the national health insurance program. It is hoped that the Filipino population continues to put utmost importance and attention to their health with such support from the government.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARJORIE ANN TEODORO
Representative
First District, Marikina City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 85

Introduced by **REP. MARJORIE ANN A. TEODORO**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR FILIPINOS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Free Annual Medical Check-Up Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principle.* – It is the policy of the State to support and promote the right to health by enhancing programs which focus on preventive and curative medicine that advance the health and well-being of Filipinos and prevent disease, disability, and death. Pursuant thereto, Filipinos shall be entitled to an annual medical check-up that is free of charge in any government hospital and institution.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – All Filipino Citizens, by virtue of their membership in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) mandated under Republic Act No. 11223, or the “Universal Health Care Law”, shall be entitled to the applicable benefits under the Philippine Health Insurance Program.

Members shall be entitled to a free annual medical check-up that shall include blood sugar and cholesterol tests. Laboratory and diagnostic tests shall be expanded, subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds.

SEC. 4. *Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up.* – To promote health, identify risks, and ensure early diagnosis, PhilHealth shall establish a system that allows access to a free annual medical check-up and ensure that Filipinos shall be accorded the quality health care services that they deserve.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the PhilHealth funds.

SEC. 4. *Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up.* – To promote health, identify risks, and ensure early diagnosis, PhilHealth shall establish a system that allows access to a free annual medical check-up and ensure that Filipinos shall be accorded the quality health care services that they deserve.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the PhilHealth funds.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health shall, in coordination with PhilHealth, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,