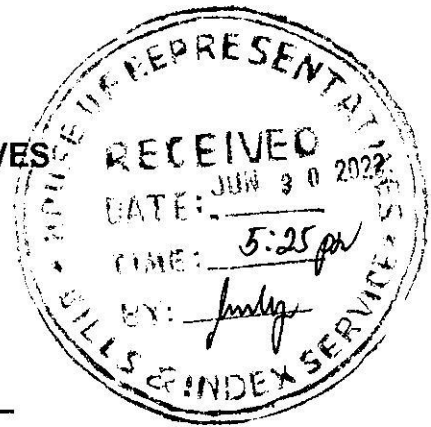


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 430



Introduced by **REP. RAY FLORENCE REYES**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR FILIPINOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines recognizes the Right to Health as a fundamental human right as the Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. 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 the people at affordable cost, is a duty of the State.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the many vulnerabilities of Filipinos, the biggest being our overall health and wellness as the disease ravaged the country resulting in numerous deaths, specifically among the vulnerable sectors, those with pre-existing conditions and comorbidities. Many of these vulnerabilities, conditions and comorbidities, could have been adequately addressed at their early stages.

According to a 2018 study by Dayrit, Lagrada, et al. published by the WHO, care-seeking behavior among Filipinos is largely dictated by the ability to pay (household income) and, because of financial constraints especially among the poor, care-seeking is often delayed. [...] Until the condition becomes serious, the patient may opt for self-care or take alternative remedies, including traditional healing."

Therefore, as Filipinos have realized the value of one's health and wellness and as our government continues to address the current health crisis, along with the roll out of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act, there is a need to shore up the country's health response by providing an opportunity for Filipinos to access preventive care without incurring additional financial costs.

This measure is an adoption of the bill filed by then-Rep. Michael Defensor of ANAKalusugan Partylist and Senator Sonny Angara. Should this merit enactment, Filipinos – who are automatically members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) by virtue of R.A. No. 11223 – would be able to access free annual medical check-ups which shall

include blood sugar and cholesterol tests. The program shall be created and managed by PhilHealth and will ensure address the growing cost of healthcare in the country.

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


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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 of 2021”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes its duty to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Pursuant to its duty, the State shall provide the services needed to ensure the health and wellness of every Filipino. Aside from enhancing programs that focus on curative medicine, there should be emphasis on improving the country's health care system in terms of preventive interventions and strengthening the health-seeking behavior of citizens. In line with this, Filipinos shall be entitled to an annual medical check-up, through the programs of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), that is free of charge in any government hospital and institution.

SEC. 3. Coverage.

- A. **Population Coverage.** – Every Filipino citizen shall be covered by the free annual medical check-up under this Act pursuant to Sec. 5 of R.A. No. 11223 or the “Universal Health Care Act.”
- B. **Medical Check-Up Coverage.** – PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall establish a program to provide Filipinos with free annual medical check-up including, but not limited to, blood sugar and cholesterol tests: Provided, That, prior to the availment of laboratory and/or diagnostic exams, the patient must first be screened by a PhilHealth- accredited primary care provider as stated under Sec. 6(d) of R.A. 11223 in order to evaluate the patient and identify which laboratory and/or diagnostic exams should be administered: Provided, further, That the availment of the laboratory and/or diagnostic exams shall be through PhilHealth-accredited health care institutions (HCIs): Provided, furthermore, That, upon approval of the PhilHealth Board, these laboratory and/or

diagnostic exam shall be expanded subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds and the current and emerging health necessities of Filipinos.

SEC. 4. Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up. – The duration of availing the free medical check-up shall be for the whole calendar year. PhilHealth shall establish a system to secure that every Filipino will be accommodated and get the services that they are entitled to.

SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations – PhilHealth shall be primarily responsible in implementing the provisions of this Act. PhilHealth, in consultation with DOH, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty (30) days upon effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the total revenue of PhilHealth, composed of premium contributions from direct contributors and premium subsidies of the government for the indirect contributors, of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, decrees, orders, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of 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,