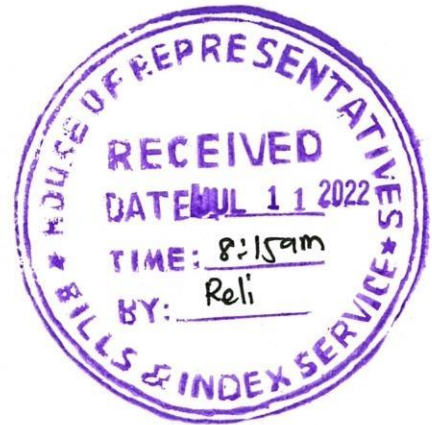


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1719

Introduced by: HON. RUTH MARIANO-HERNANDEZ

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is a re-filed version of House Bill 9072 that was primarily authored by Reps. Angelina Tan and Michael Defensor in the 18th Congress. The said measure was approved by the House June 1, 2021 and transmitted to the Senate on June 2, 2021. The election season overtook the nation's attention and the Senate was not able to approve said measure.

This measure needs to be enacted to further the mandate to make health services accessible to all Filipinos, as stated in Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution:

"The State shall adopt 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. 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."

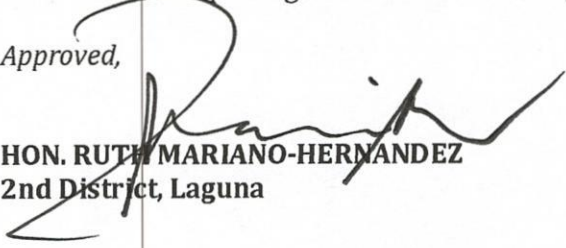
Republic Act 11223 or the Universal Health Care Law recognizes the importance of primary healthcare in promoting the health and wellness of the Filipino people. Primary health care also includes preventive care, wherein medical check-ups are optimally included.

The Department of Health has time and again said that among the leading causes of death are heart diseases, diseases of the vascular system, pneumonia, various types of cancers, tuberculosis, diabetes mellitus, nephritis and other diseases of respiratory system. These diseases are easily detected via physical examinations and diagnostic tests.

To promote the right to health, this bill hereby aims to ensure that each Filipino shall have a free annual medical check-up with their membership in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

The immediate passage of this bill is hereby earnestly sought.

Approved,


HON. RUTH MARIANO-HERNANDEZ
2nd District, Laguna

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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.”

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. 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,