

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2254**



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ S. PUMAREN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Right to Health is a fundamental human right.

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Furthermore, "[t]he 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." Similarly, the World Health Organization (WHO), in its Constitution, recognizes that the "enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."¹

According to a study by the University of the Philippines School of Economics, six (6) out of ten (10) Filipinos die without ever seeing a doctor. Studies attribute the dismal health education in the country to the poor economic position of most of the population. This very same reason is the stimulus behind the creation of *Republic Act No. 11223* or "The Universal Health Care Act." The UHC, in boosting public health and enhancing the public's health, aims that all Filipinos be guaranteed "equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services, and protected against financial risk."² Likewise, the UHC envisions that through its passage and implementation, all Filipinos will be more "health literate, provided with healthy living conditions, and protected from hazards and risks that could affect their health."³

¹ The Constitution of the World Health Organization adopted by the International Health Conference, held from 19 June to 22 July 1946 in New York.

² Republic Act No. 11223 or the "Universal Health Care Act".

³ *Ibid.*

Supplementing the benefits of the UHC, this measure seeks to provide access to preventive care to all Filipinos without incurring additional financial burden. As the Dutch philosopher Desiderius Erasmus maintained, prevention is always better than cure.

This measure upholds the right to health of all Filipinos by giving everyone access to free medical check-up and, in effect, promoting better health literacy among the population.

Given the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



FRANZ S. PUMAREN
3rd District, Quezon City

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

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 2022”.

SECTION 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 preventive and 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), which is free of charge in any government hospital and institution.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.*

- A. Population Coverage – Pursuant to Sec. 5 of Republic Act No. 11223 or the “Universal Health Care Act,” every Filipino citizen shall automatically be included in the National Health Identification Program or NHIP, hence making every Filipino a PhilHealth member and thus entitled to the applicable benefits under this 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 to evaluate the patient and identify which laboratory and/or diagnostic exams should be administered: *Provided, further, That*, upon approval of the PhilHealth Board, these laboratory and/or diagnostic exams shall be expanded subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds and the current and emerging health necessities of Filipinos.

SECTION 4. *Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up.* The duration of availing of the free medical check-up shall be for the whole calendar year, accorded once a year, during the birth month of the beneficiary. PhilHealth shall establish a system to ensure that every Filipino will be accommodated and get the services they are entitled to.

SECTION 5. *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.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health, in coordination with PhilHealth, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act not later than ninety (30) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, other issuances, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,