

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. B. No. 3176

Introduced by Representative Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION BENEFIT FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Teachers play a vital role in facilitating the learning and development of students. As the main contributor in molding the minds of the youth, the educators are expected to perform with utmost commitment, effectiveness and competency. It is of absolute importance to recognize the necessity of keeping our teachers healthy considering that their physical well-being has a significant impact on the efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of educational services.

Several programs in promoting the well-being of teachers have been initiated in the past by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd). However, the comprehensive medical examination program for teachers which was initiated in 2014, in line with the mandate under Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act (UHC) and the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, has not been implemented despite the issuance of the guidelines by the agencies concerned.

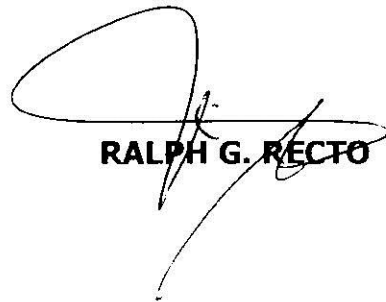
In 2019, a five hundred pesos (Php500.00) medical examination benefit was provided for public school teachers under the General Appropriations Act. That was the first time that such benefit, which is a compulsory provision in the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, was received by the teaching force. In 2022, a five

thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) Cash Allowance to Teachers was appropriated per classroom teacher for the purchase of teaching supplies and materials, for internet subscription and other communications expenses, and for an annual medical examination (AME). Joint Circular No. 2, s. of 2021 issued by the Department of Budget and Management in coordination with the DepEd, did not specify how much was specifically allocated for the AME.

As a pro-active response to the needs of one of the most important sectors in our society, and to implement the obligation of the government under the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, this bill seeks to provide for free annual medical examination for teachers which shall be chargeable against the health insurance fund of the PHIC. This benefit will strengthen the primary health care services in the country by promoting the health of public school teachers, reducing unnecessary hospitalization and protecting them from the high cost of hospital care.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the prioritization of nations towards the attainment of better health services and promotion of the well-being of its citizens. This measure will help ensure that the health of one of the most important and the largest group numbering to a million in government service will be taken care of.

The immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH G. RECTO

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

1 Section. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Public School Teachers’
2 Annual Medical Check-Up Act”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness
5 among them. Towards this end, the State shall adopt an integrated and
6 comprehensive health development program and provision of medical services to
7 promote the well-being of public school teachers nationwide.

8 Sec. 3. *Annual Medical Check-Up Benefit.* – The annual medical check-up benefit
9 shall be provided free-of-charge to all public school teachers and may be availed of
10 every year, subject to PhilHealth benefit guidelines. This benefit shall include a
11 comprehensive health profile upon enlistment, primary care consultations, and when
12 clinically necessary, selected diagnostic tests such as:

- 13 i. Complete blood count (CBC);
14 ii. Blood typing;
15 iii. Urinalysis;
16 iv. Stool Exam;
17 v. Chest X-ray;
18 vi. Sputum Microscopy;

- vii. Lipid Profile;
- viii. Fasting Blood Sugar;
- ix. Creatinine;
- x. Electrocardiogram (ECG); and
- xi. Blood glucose monitoring

Sec. 4. *Coverage.* – The grant of the annual medical examination benefit authorized in this Act shall cover all persons engaged in classroom teaching, in any level of instruction, on full-time basis, including guidance counselors, school librarians, industrial arts or vocational instructors, and all other persons performing supervisory and/or administrative functions in all schools, colleges, and universities operated by the government or its political subdivisions. Beneficiaries under this Act shall choose the provider that is most accessible to them without restriction to jurisdictional area, and may avail of the benefit after enlistment and scheduled appointment.

Sec. 5. *Medical Check-Up Providers.* – Both government and private health care facilities can be accredited as medical check-up providers, subject to accreditation standards by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC). All accredited providers must ensure that the indicated benefits in the package are available to the enlisted beneficiaries. Providers cannot discriminate against beneficiaries with high health risks to enlist in their facility.

Sec. 6. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the grant of the annual medical check-up benefit authorized under this Act shall be charged against the health insurance fund of the PHIC.

Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PHIC, in coordination with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 9 *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, resolutions, orders or ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

 Approved,