

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4571



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE BERNADETTE HERRERA

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Moreover, it is also the duty of the State to 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.

Furthermore, the Philippines, as a state party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, recognizes the Right to Health as a fundamental human right.

The already staggering rate of unhealthy Filipinos was further highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the thousands of COVID-19 deaths were those with various pre-existing conditions and comorbidities, which only served to complicate treatment. It was further made evident that many of these conditions and comorbidities, such as coronary heart diseases or diabetes, could have been adequately addressed if these were screened early.

During pre-pandemic times, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) already noted that among the top ten leading causes of death from 2015-2019 include heart diseases, pneumonia, diabetes, and hypertensive diseases.

Today, as our countrymen have a deeper sense of taking care of one's health, a measure that provides free annual check-ups would serve as a significant help to

the population, especially the impoverished, and would complement greatly the already legislated Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act.

This bill, counterpart to that filed by Senator Sonny Angara in the Senate, serves as providing the means for the population to have their medical check-ups for no additional financial costs, thereby enhancing the early detection and treatment of preventive health risks. Through this measure, 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. This program, which shall be created and managed by PhilHealth, will not only help Filipinos assess their well-being and address their most immediate health concerns but also hopefully address the growing cost of healthcare in the country.

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



BERNADETTE "BH" HERRERA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4571

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE BERNADETTE HERRERA

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative 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 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, the 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,