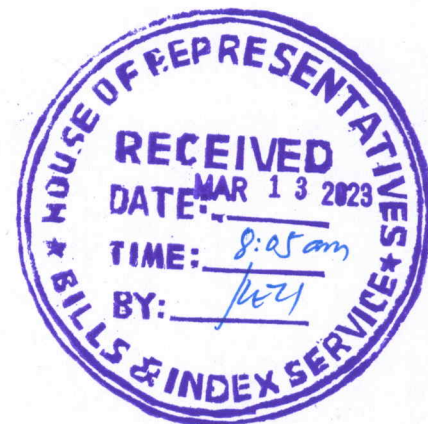


1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Constitution Hills, Quezon City

4
5 **NINETEENTH CONGRESS**
6 First Regular Session

7
8 **House Bill No. 7565**



9 **Introduced by Representatives ANTHONY ROLANDO T. GOLEZ, JR., and**
10 **ALBERT S. GARCIA.**

11 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**
12

13 The World Health Organization in 1948 established that the enjoyment
14 of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of
15 every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief,
16 economic or social condition. Since then, all member countries including the
17 Philippines have worked towards this goal to provide timely, adequate,
18 affordable, and quality health care to all its citizens. In the past decades, we
19 have seen how the global community have worked together to bring this
20 standard into fruition through various treaties, international cooperation,
21 multisectoral involvement, and the implementation of Millennium
22 Development Goals (MDGs) which were then replaced by the Sustainable
23 Development Goals (SDGs).

24 Here in the Philippines in the past few decades, we have introduced
25 radical pieces of legislations, instituted reforms, implemented programs, and
26 worked with national and international stakeholders to sustainably increase
27 the standard of health of all Filipinos. We have mandated comprehensive
28 iodization of table salt which decreased the incidence of goiter which
29 previously ravaged the population. We have eradicated polio through massive
30 immunization campaign. We have also reduced the risk of youth of dying
31 premature deaths through increasing the price of tobacco through sin taxes.

32 More recently, we have made strides in ensuring the universal access to
33 timely and adequate health care of all Filipinos through the Universal Health
34 Care Act promulgated during the administration of Former President Rodrigo
35 Roa Duterte. Through this piece of legislation, all Filipinos have basic financial
36 protection against the financial cost of health care in the Philippines which is
37 equally as debilitating as the disease itself. With the current agenda of the
38 administration of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., wherein full economic

1 recovery and resiliency amidst the pandemic is of prime importance, the full
2 and efficient implementation is of crucial importance.

3 One of the key implementors of the UHC law is the Philippine Health
4 Insurance Corporation or commonly known as PhilHealth. A few years before
5 the passage of the UHC Law, this Representation have introduced a bill to
6 shorten the term of the President of PhilHealth from six (6) years to one (1)
7 year. At that time, this move was driven by the desire to make PhilHealth more
8 accountable and to ensure that the President of PhilHealth would not immune
9 from political pressures by his/her appointment. Everything changed when the
10 UHC was subsequently enacted.

11 When the UHC was being deliberated, it was the primal consideration of
12 the law that PhilHealth would be one of its lead implementors to ensure the
13 universal access to care of all Filipinos. The good legislators and colleagues at
14 that time failed to incorporate a key amendment in the structure of PhilHealth
15 which is its leadership and governance. The UHC also created a gap and
16 confusion as to the role of its President/CEO with both the amended NHIC law
17 and the UHC law have confusing provisions which might be detrimental to its
18 implementation.

19 As what we can presently observe, leadership and governance in
20 PhilHealth is vital to its continued success and to the success of the achieving
21 Universal Health Care in the Philippines. Presently and during the height of the
22 COVID-19 pandemic, our countrymen relied heavily on the benefits and
23 coverage of PhilHealth to protect themselves from the devastating cost of
24 health brought by the pandemic and other diseases. It cannot be stressed
25 enough that the success of the PhilHealth is of primal national importance.

26 This bill is also a step forward in the current agenda of the present
27 administration which is to improve public trust in government agencies and to
28 improve the services to the Filipino people. By securing the appointment of the
29 President/CEO of PhilHealth in a fixed six-year term and by elevating its rank
30 to the rank of a Cabinet Secretary, it will empower PhilHealth to implement
31 multi-sectoral and radical reforms that will outlive the current administration.
32 Since the President/CEO will be able to attend Cabinet meetings, it will
33 empower the President/CEO to coordinate with other heads of agencies and to
34 immediately elevate its concerns to the President for quick and efficient
35 resolution.

36 This bill seeks not only to harmonize and close the gap between the NHIC
37 law, as amended, and the UHC law, but it also seeks to amend the position of the
38 President/CEO of PhilHealth to ensure that the leadership and governance of

1 the institution would be immune from political pressures and to ensure that
2 programs and reforms would be continuous despite changes in administration.

3 Considering that the quality of care and the implementation of UHC can
4 be substantially improved by ensuring good governance and stable leadership
5 in PhilHealth, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

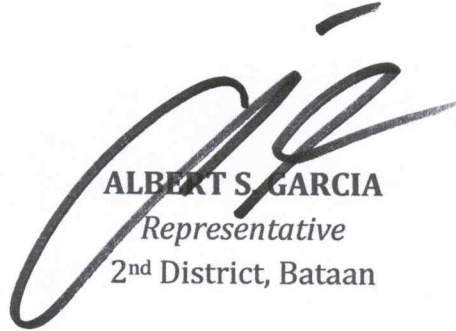
6



ANTHONY ROLANDO T. GOLEZ, JR.

Representative

Party List, Malasakit@Bayanihan



ALBERT S. GARCIA

Representative

2nd District, Bataan

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Constitution Hills, Quezon City

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5 **NINETEENTH CONGRESS**
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8 **House Bill No. 7565**

9 **Introduced by Representatives ANTHONY ROLANDO T. GOLEZ, JR., and**
10 **ALBERT S. GARCIA.**

11 **AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 14, CHAPTER III, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.**
12 **11223, AN ACT INSTITUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL**
13 **FILIPINOS, PRESCRIBING REFORMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND**
14 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

15
16 *Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the*
17 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*

18
19 **SECTION 1.** Section 14 of Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as
20 **“AN ACT INSTITUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS,**
21 **PRESCRIBING REFORMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND**
22 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**, is hereby amended to read as follows:

23
24 ***SEC. 14.*** *The President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of*
25 *PhilHealth. –*

26 *(a) Appointment and Tenure – The President of the*
27 *Philippines shall appoint for a non-renewable term of six (6)*
28 *years the President and CEO of PhilHealth from the Board’s*
29 *non-ex officio members, hereinafter referred to as the*
30 *President and CEO, upon the recommendation of the Board.*
31 *The President and CEO shall not be removed from office,*
32 *except in accordance with existing laws. Appointment to any*
33 *vacancy shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term*
34 *of the predecessor.*

1 (b) Duties and Functions – The President and CEO shall have
2 the duty of advising the Board and carrying into effect its
3 policies and decisions. His functions are as follows: (1) to act
4 as the chief executive officer of Philhealth; and (2) to be
5 responsible for the general conduct of the operations and
6 management functions of Philhealth and for other duties
7 assigned to him by the Board; and (3) to regularly advise the
8 President of the Philippines and the Secretary of Health on
9 the operations and management of Philhealth as well as the
10 implementation of the Universal Health Care Act and other
11 related laws within its jurisdiction.

12 (c) Qualifications – The President and CEO must be a Filipino
13 citizen and must possess adequate and appropriate training
14 and at least seven (7) years of experience in the field of public
15 health, management, finance, and health economics or a
16 combination of any of these expertise.

17 (d) Prohibition – To avoid conflict of interest, the President
18 and CEO must not be involved in any health care institution
19 including as owner or member of its board, and the President
20 and CEO must not be an elected public official at the time of
21 his/her appointment or have previously participated in a
22 general election one (1) year prior his/her appointment.

23 (e) Rank and Salary – The President and CEO, upon
24 appointment, shall have the rank equivalent to a Cabinet
25 Secretary and shall receive the corresponding salary and all
26 other bonuses fixed under relevant laws, payable from the
27 funds of Philhealth.

28 The appointment of the President and CEO shall no longer
29 require the concurrence of the Commission of Appointments
30 and shall immediately take effect upon appointment by the
31 President of the Philippines.

32
33 **SECTION 2. Section 19 of Republic Act No. 7875 otherwise known as “AN**
34 **ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR ALL**

1 **FILIPINOS AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE**
2 **CORPORATION FOR THE PURPOSE”** is hereby repealed by Section 14 of
3 Republic Act No. 11223, as hereby amended.

4 **SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – All acts, executive orders, memorandum
5 circulars/guidelines and other issuances or parts thereof, which are
6 inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

7 **SECTION 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
8 its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
9 circulation.

10 **Approved,**