

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9085**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to address the pervasive issue of transparency in medical billing while aiming to prevent exorbitant costs within our healthcare system, which have burdened our citizens for the longest time. In situations where almost, if not all, basic commodities, such as health care services, continue to soar high, people resorting to alternative forms of medication other than going and staying in healthcare facilities is a common yet unfortunate repercussion of this persisting problem.

Introducing a mandatory measure requiring healthcare facilities to provide a comprehensive and reliable price list, including all incidental expenses, is a vital step towards transparency and empowerment of patients as it will further safeguard them from misleading and unfair practices in the healthcare system.

Transparent pricing information can empower individuals to make decisions, especially in terms of comparing costs of one institution to another and freely deciding where is the most ideal facility to avail. In a greater scheme, this will help the state achieve its aim for a fair and equitable healthcare system for all. In this proposed bill, it also provides power to the Department of Health (DOH) to determine penalties and fines for those non-compliant individual and juridical entities.

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


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
REQUIRING HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO PROVIDE A PRICE
LIST OF ITS HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INCLUDING INCIDENTAL
EXPENSES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, THAT CAN BE CHARGED
IN THE MEDICAL BILL

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 “Healthcare Services Price Disclosure Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes and upholds the fundamental right to health of its citizens. The State shall enforce measures to safeguard and advance the well-being of the people and to achieve transparency in healthcare.

In view thereof, the State shall diligently mandate all healthcare facilities to a comprehensive price list accompanying incidental expenses and accessible information to the public.

SECTION 3. Price List of Healthcare Services and Incidental Expenses Including Medical Supplies Offered and Charged by a Healthcare Facility. – Healthcare facilities shall be required to provide a comprehensive list of prices for their healthcare services, incidental expenses, and medical supplies. Likewise, the facility must ensure that the price list is readily available to the general public without the need for additional inquiries.

Furthermore, all medical bills must include a detailed breakdown and itemization of all healthcare services, incidental expenses, and medical supplies utilized by the patient, along with the corresponding prices charged.

SECTION 4. Price List of Healthcare Services, Incidental Expenses, and Medical Supplies Binding on Healthcare Facility. – Upon the admission of a patient, the healthcare facility is obligated to the price list for healthcare services, incidental expenses, and medical supplies. Any changes or increases in the prices of these services will only be valid and applicable after being properly posted in accordance with the requirements stated in this Act.

In addition, patients who were admitted prior to the posting of the price increase will not be subjected to new prices and will continue to be charged based on the previous prices.

SECTION 5. *Penalties.* – The Department of Health (DOH) is vested with authority to determine the penalties associated with non-compliance. These penalties may include the suspension or revocation of the healthcare facility's license to operate, or the recommendation for the suspension of professional licenses to practice.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Agency.* – The DOH shall enforce the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall, in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain in effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,