

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9189



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE IRENE GAY F. SAULOG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Right to Health is universally recognized as a fundamental human right.

In line with this principle, the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines has entrusted the State with the duty to protect and promote the Right to Health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.¹ Furthermore, it underscores the necessity for an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, aiming to provide essential goods, healthcare, and other social services at affordable costs for everyone, with a specific focus on the underprivileged, the sick, the elderly, the disabled, women, and children.²

Championing the Right to Health of Filipinos means affording each of them an equal and fair opportunity to access healthcare services, irrespective of their financial status. In simpler terms, no Filipino should be denied healthcare services solely due to their economic circumstances.

Regrettably, the economic conditions in the Philippines have resulted in a distressing statistic: six out of ten Filipinos die without receiving medical attention from a physician. Even more disheartening is the fact that the primary causes of death in the Philippines, including heart diseases, vascular disorders, pneumonias, malignant neoplasms/cancers, various forms of tuberculosis, COPD, diabetes mellitus,

¹ Article II, Section 15, 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

² Article XIII, Section 11, *Ibid.*

nephritis/nephritic syndrome, and respiratory ailments, are conditions that can be treated and prevented with efficient and preventive measures in place.³

Indeed, offering free annual medical checkups play a vital role in healthcare by enabling medical professionals to identify signs of diseases that patients may not be cognizant of. Through routine screenings, doctors can diagnose potentially severe or life-threatening conditions and proactively address associated risks before they escalate or worsen. Early detection substantially increases a person's likelihood of receiving timely and appropriate treatment, affording them early access to treatment options that can expedite the recovery process.

Consequently, this bill aligns perfectly with the constitutional mandate to promote the Right to Health of all Filipinos by ensuring that every Filipino enjoys free access to preventive healthcare services, thereby fostering improved health among the Filipino populace.

This is a refiled bill from the 18th Congress, where the Honorable Representative Michael T. Defensor authored the original measure, namely, House Bill No. 4093.

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


Hon. **IRENE F. SAULOG**
Representative
KALINGA PARTY-LIST

³ “DOH: Leading Cause of Mortality in the Philippines” <https://doh.gov.ph/node/1058>

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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 2023.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes its duty to protect and promote the right to health of the people. In fulfilling this obligation, the State shall provide the necessary services to guarantee 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 accordance with this objective, every Filipino shall be entitled to an annual medical check-up, through the programs administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), which is free of charge in any government hospital and institution.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.*

A. **Population Coverage** – In accordance with Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11223, also known as the "Universal Health Care Act," every Filipino citizen shall be automatically enrolled in the National Health Identification Program (NHIP), which effectively makes every Filipino a member of PhilHealth, entitling them to the 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 basic diagnostic and laboratory tests such as the following: Physical Examination, Complete Blood Count (CBC), Urinalysis, Stool Analysis, Creatinine, Blood Uric Acid, Chest X-Ray, Blood Sugar and Cholesterol Tests. The expansion of these laboratories and diagnostic tests will be contingent upon the availability of PhilHealth funds and the evolving healthcare needs 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. 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 (90) 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,