

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11298



Introduced by **Representative Wilbert “Manoy” T. Lee**

AN ACT
GRANTING AMNESTY FOR CASES INVOLVING HOSPITALS AND
DOCTORS AND PAYMENT OF DENIED CLAIMS DUE TO LATE FILING
AND PENALTY REDUCTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS, TOWARD THE FULL
AND GENUINE REALIZATION OF THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE LAW

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, as provided for in Republic Act No. 11223, envisions equitable access to comprehensive, quality, and affordable health services for all Filipinos. Despite the law’s promising and revolutionary objectives, its full realization has been hindered by systemic barriers, between healthcare providers (hospitals and doctors) and the Philhealth Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). These challenges prevent a seamless transition to universal health coverage, undermining the sustainability of our country’s healthcare system leading to delays in the timely access to essential health services for many Filipinos. To overcome these barriers and ensure the full and genuine realization of the UHC Law is essential.

In order to guarantee access to healthcare services, the government's coordination and relationship with healthcare providers is crucial, particularly on the implementation of the UHC Law. However, the government and health care services providers are confronted with legal battles resulting from payment delays, disparities in claims processing, and other compliance difficulties. There have been calls urging the PhilHealth to grant amnesty to suspected fraudulent cases that have not been resolved for more than a year¹ in order to clear legal backlogs, enabling healthcare providers to focus on patient care rather than lengthy dispute resolutions thereby creating a more conducive environment for effective healthcare delivery. Likewise, amnesty by facilitating the payment of denied claims due to late filing

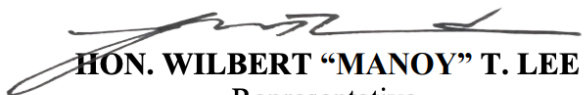
¹ Cabrera, R. (1 November 2024) Grant amnesty to hospitals with unresolved cases, PhilHealth urged. Accessed last 12 January 2025 from: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/01/2396839/grant-amnesty-hospitals-unresolved-cases-philhealth-urged>

will help healthcare providers recover from financial strains and ensure continued operation and the availability of services to the public. A reinvigorated healthcare sector will directly benefit the population, particularly vulnerable groups who depend on public healthcare services.

On the same note, employers play a crucial role in supporting the Universal Health Care Law by contributing to the financing of the health system through premium payments. However, many employers have been penalized for late or non-payment of contributions, often due to genuine business challenges especially during the pandemic. The lowering of surcharge penalties will encourage employers to settle their dues without facing prohibitive penalties, thereby increasing revenue for the health system and foster a more inclusive approach to employer compliance, ensuring that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are not unfairly penalized, while ensuring that they contribute to the national insurance fund.

By granting amnesty for legal cases involving healthcare providers, facilitating the payment of denied claims, and reducing penalties for employers, this measure aims to streamline processes, foster cooperation, and ultimately accelerate the attainment of universal healthcare for all citizens.

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


HON. WILBERT “MANOY” T. LEE
Representative
AGRI PARTYLIST

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11298

Introduced by **Representative Wilbert T. Lee**

AN ACT
GRANTING AMNESTY FOR CASES INVOLVING HOSPITALS AND
DOCTORS AND PAYMENT OF DENIED CLAIMS DUE TO LATE FILING
AND PENALTY REDUCTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS, TOWARD THE FULL
AND GENUINE REALIZATION OF THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE LAW

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to ensure equitable
2 access to quality health care for all citizens, consistent with the goals of the Universal Health
3 Care Law. In pursuit of this objective, it is necessary to address outstanding legal issues
4 involving health care providers, eliminate barriers to payment for health care services, and
5 foster cooperation between the government, hospitals, doctors, and employers in
6 implementing universal health coverage.
7

8 **SEC. 2. Amnesty for Pending Cases Involving Hospitals and Healthcare**
9 **Providers.** Any pending case filed against hospitals, healthcare providers, or medical
10 professionals, including doctors, before the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
11 (PhilHealth) arising from suspected fraudulent activities, which have remained unresolved for
12 a period exceeding one (1) year, shall be deemed automatically dismissed. This dismissal
13 shall be without prejudice to the initiation of any further legal proceedings before a
14 competent court of law.
15

16 **SEC 3. Reconsideration of Denied Claims.** Reconsideration of denied claims for
17 medical services rendered that were denied by PhilHealth solely on the basis of late filing,
18 with filing dates no later than January 1, 2018, shall be subject to reconsideration by
19 PhilHealth. The health service provider, hospital, or medical professional must demonstrate
20 that the late filing was caused by circumstances beyond their reasonable control, including
21 but not limited to technical errors, health emergencies, or other similar factors. PhilHealth

1 shall review and process all resubmitted claims in a timely and efficient manner. Claims
2 found to be valid following resubmission shall be approved and paid without the imposition
3 of any penalties or fines for the late submission.
4

5 **SEC 4. *Amnesty for Interest, Surcharge Penalties for Employers.*** Employers who
6 are subject to interest, surcharges and penalties for non-compliance with the payment of
7 health premiums from January 1, 1995 shall be granted amnesty, provided they settle the
8 original surcharge amount and the principal premium contribution. Application for Amnesty
9 Employers wishing to avail themselves of this amnesty provision must submit a formal
10 application to both PhilHealth and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in
11 accordance with the prescribed procedures.
12

13 **SEC 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, and
14 rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with this Act are
15 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
16

17 **SEC 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, and
18 rules
19

20 **SEC 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect immediately following its publication
21 in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,