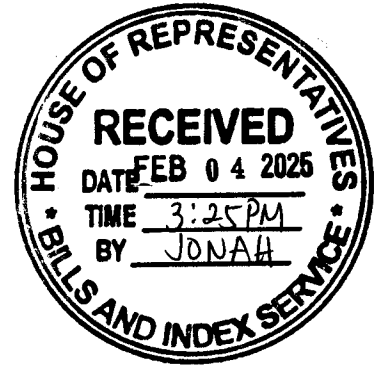




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **11415**



INTRODUCED BY REP. JOSE “BONG” J. TEVES, JR.

AN ACT
MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF THE PROFESSIONAL OR DOCTOR’S FEES
IN THE COVERAGE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENT AND
FINANCIALLY INCAPACITATED PATIENTS PROGRAM OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite the implementation of Republic Act No. 11223 or the “Universal Health Care Act” and the “No Balance Billing Policy” of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), many indigent and financially incapacitated Filipinos still carry the burden of paying excessive hospital bills notwithstanding the payment of professional or doctor’s fees.

In order to help bridge the gap towards accessible health care, the Department of Health (DOH) has implemented the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) Program in order to provide additional aid to our fellow Filipinos. Currently, under DOH Administrative Order No. 2024-0006, the MAIFIP program shall only cover the following:

1. Drugs and medicines as approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
2. Laboratory, imaging, radiological, and other diagnostic procedures including assessment/readers fees;
3. Blood and other related blood screening/products;

4. Clinically indicated medical-surgical cases, obstetrics-gynecological cases considered as high-risk, dental cases requiring implants, medical devices and supplies, and other relevant procedures;
5. Prescribed post-hospitalization, rehabilitation services, aftercare program, and appropriate mental and psychosocial support;
6. All hospital bills/charges; and
7. **PROFESSIONAL FEES, PROVIDED THAT THE EXPENSES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL FEES SHALL NOT EXCEED 50% OF THE APPROVED AMOUNT OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.**

Under item seven (7) of the said section, only up to fifty percent (50%) of the approved amount of medical assistance is allowed to cover for the professional or doctor's fee. In addition to the said limitation, many of our health care professionals or doctors refuse to accept guarantee letters of the MAIFIP as form of payment for professional or doctor's fee.

To address the issue and to further accommodate our less fortunate patients, this measure seeks to mandate the inclusion of professional or doctor's fee, without any limitations on the approved amount, in the coverage of the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients program of the Department of Health in order to help attain the "Zero Billing" or "No Balance Billing" goal of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

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



HON. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, JR.
Deputy Majority Leader
Representative, TGP Party-List



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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This law shall be known as the "MAIFIP Coverage for Doctor's Fee Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — Under Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, the State shall protect and advance the right to health of the people by ensuring access to medical services without the burden of paying professional and doctor's fees. Pursuant thereto, indigent and financially incapacitated patients shall be allowed to utilize the full amount of the approved Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) of the Department of Health for the payment of professional or doctor's fees.

SEC. 3. Coverage. — All health care professionals that bill or charge professional or doctor's fees in public and private hospitals, clinic, health care institutions accredited by the Department of Health.

All indigent and financially incapacitated patients identified by the Department of Health or Department of Social Welfare and Development.

SEC. 4. Mandatory Act. — All medical professionals or doctors in private and public hospitals, clinics, health care institutions accredited by the Department of Health that charge professional or doctor's fees shall accept guarantee letters issued by the Department of Health under the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients Program as form of payment or compensation.

All government agencies and institutions providing financial assistance to indigent and financially incapacitated patients for hospital expenses shall include the coverage for the professional or doctor's fees, which may be incorporated in the final hospital bill or in a separate bill.

SEC. 5. Penal Clause — Any public and private hospital, clinic, health care institution, doctor, physician, and other health care professional who will refuse guarantee letter as mode of payment for professional or doctor's fee shall be fined: *First Offense* – One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00); *Second Offense* – Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 200,000.00); and *Third Offense* – Cancellation of Professional License or License to Operate.

SEC. 6. Role of the Department of Health — The Department of Health and its agencies are mandated to receive and act on complaints arising from violations of this Act.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations — All implementing rules and regulations necessary to enforce this Act must be issued and shall take effect not later than ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any of the provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to any of the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,