

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1679



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR ALL
SENIOR CITIZENS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to timely and adequate healthcare is a fundamental right of every Filipino, especially our senior citizens, who are more vulnerable to illness due to age-related health conditions. However, the high cost of medical consultations, laboratory tests, and diagnostics often discourages elderly Filipinos—particularly those from low-income households—from seeking preventive care. This results in late diagnosis, worsened health outcomes, and a heavier burden on both families and the public health system.

This bill proposes the "Free Annual Medical Check-Up for Senior Citizens Act" to institutionalize the provision of free annual medical check-ups exclusively for all Filipino senior citizens. Anchored on the principles of the Universal Health Care Act (RA No. 11223), this measure emphasizes preventive health as a national priority by ensuring that every senior citizen, as a PhilHealth member, is entitled to a no-cost annual medical examination in any government health facility.

The annual check-up shall include basic services such as blood sugar and cholesterol tests, with the list of laboratory and diagnostic services to be expanded, subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds. The bill mandates PhilHealth to develop a system that facilitates accessible, regular, and quality check-ups for senior citizens to detect health risks early and intervene before illnesses progress. This shall be implemented in coordination with the Department of Health through the establishment of appropriate rules and regulations.

Preventive healthcare is not only more humane—it is also more cost-effective. Early detection of diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol can save lives and significantly reduce healthcare costs for both the individual and the

government.

Given the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to safeguard the health and well-being of our senior citizens and to honor their contributions to our society by promoting their right to healthy aging.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rodolfo' with a stylized flourish.

RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Free Annual Medical
2 Check-Up for Senior Citizens Act.”

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Principles.** – It is the policy of the State to support and
4 promote the right to health by enhancing programs that focus on preventive and
5 curative healthcare, particularly for senior citizens, to improve their well-being and
6 prevent disease, disability, and death. Pursuant thereto, all Filipino senior citizens
7 shall be entitled to an annual medical check-up, free of charge, in any government
8 hospital or health facility.

9 SEC. 3. **Coverage.** – All Filipino senior citizens, by virtue of their membership
10 in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), as mandated under
11 Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “Universal Health Care Act,” shall
12 be entitled to the benefits provided under this Act.

13 Senior citizens shall be entitled to one (1) free annual medical check-up, which
14 shall include basic services such as blood sugar and cholesterol tests. Additional
15 laboratory and diagnostic services may be included, subject to the availability of
16 PhilHealth funds.

17 SEC. 4. **Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up.** – To promote health, identify risks,
18 and ensure early diagnosis, PhilHealth shall establish a system that allows access to a
19 free annual medical check-up, ensuring that senior citizens receive the quality
20 healthcare services they deserve.

21 SEC. 5. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be
22 charged against the PhilHealth funds.

23 SEC. 6. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Health
24 shall, in coordination with PhilHealth, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
25 for the proper implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90) days from its
26 effectivity.

1 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full
3 force and effect.

4 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules, and
5 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
7 publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

8 *Approved,*