

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1681



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE HEMODIALYSIS, PERITONEAL DIALYSIS,
AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROVED DIALYSIS
PROCEDURES FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) remains one of the leading causes of death and disability among Filipinos, with senior citizens among the most vulnerable. For many elderly patients, regular dialysis treatment is a life-sustaining necessity. However, the financial burden of repeated dialysis sessions, often done two to three times a week, is too heavy for most senior citizens and their families to bear.

While the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) currently provides limited dialysis coverage, it often falls short of meeting the year-round needs of patients, particularly among indigent and elderly populations. This results in treatment interruptions, financial hardship, and avoidable deaths.

This proposed measure, entitled the "Free Dialysis for Senior Citizens Act," aims to provide full coverage of dialysis procedures for all senior citizens through PhilHealth. The bill mandates that all hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health (DOH)-approved dialysis treatments—when availed of in PhilHealth-accredited hospitals and freestanding dialysis centers—shall be reimbursed in full by PhilHealth. Reimbursement is limited to procedures that utilize solutions listed in the Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF) and necessary laboratory procedures and supplies. Furthermore, PhilHealth shall reimburse eligible expenses up to thirty (30) days prior to the claimed session, ensuring prompt and accessible support for patients in urgent need.

To ensure sustained implementation, funding will be sourced from the budgets of the DOH, PhilHealth, and future appropriations under the General Appropriations Act.

The DOH, PhilHealth, and the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) shall jointly formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty (30) days from the law's approval.

This measure is a step toward delivering just, inclusive, and compassionate healthcare for our elders who have spent their lives contributing to the growth and development of our nation. It upholds the constitutional right of every Filipino to health and social protection, especially in their twilight years.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rodolfo' with a stylized flourish, written over the printed name.

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 Dialysis for Senior*
2 *Citizens Act.*”

3 SEC. 2. *Free Dialysis Sessions for All Senior Citizens.* - The cost of the necessary
4 hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health (DOH)-approved
5 dialysis procedures shall be reimbursed by the Philippine Health Insurance
6 Corporation (PhilHealth), *Provided*, such treatment is availed of at PhilHealth-
7 accredited hospitals and freestanding dialysis centers. *Provided further*, that only those
8 procedures that use the dialysis solutions included in the latest edition of the
9 Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF) shall be reimbursed by the PhilHealth.
10 *Provided finally*, that only laboratory procedures and supplies considered necessary
11 shall be covered by the PhilHealth. PhilHealth shall, as soon as possible, reimburse all
12 official receipts for drugs, supplies, and laboratory procedures dated thirty (30) days
13 before the date of the claimed session.

14 SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* - The amount needed for the implementation of this
15 Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH and the PhilHealth in the
16 current and subsequent General Appropriations Act and their respective funds.
17 Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be
18 included in the budget of the concerned departments in the annual General
19 Appropriations.

20 SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within thirty (30) days from the
21 approval of this Act, the DOH, the PhilHealth, and the National Commission of Senior
22 Citizens (NCSC), in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall formulate
23 rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and
24 enforcement of this Act.

1 SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application
2 thereof to any person or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other
3 provisions or sections of this Act and the application of such provision or section to
4 other persons or circumstances, not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force
5 and effect.

6 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and
7 regulations, or parts thereof that are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of
8 this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

9 SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general
11 circulation.

12 *Approved,*