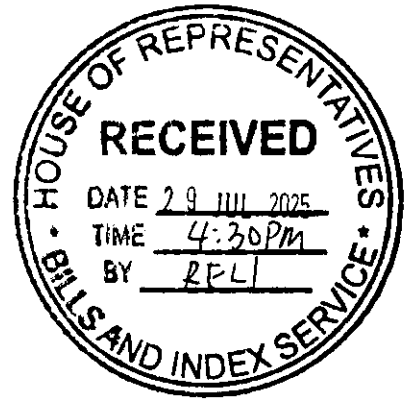


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL No. 2501

Introduced by REP. RAMIL L. HERNANDEZ

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR FILIPINOS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This House Bill is previously filed by Rep. Ruth Mariano-Hernandez through House Bill No. 1719 and was approved by House Committee on Health in February 2023.

This proposed measure aims to fulfill and further strengthen the constitutional mandate enshrined in *Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution*, which states that "[t]he State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. xxx The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers." It also aligns with *Article II, Section 15*, declaring that "[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

The Universal Health Care (UHC) Act (Republic Act No. 11223), by automatically enrolling all Filipinos into the National Health Insurance Program (PhilHealth), unequivocally recognizes and prioritizes primary healthcare as the cornerstone of a robust health system. The Act emphasizes a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services accessible to all Filipinos.

PhilHealth's existing **Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (KonSulTa) program** already provides for consultations, health risk screening and assessment, and selected laboratory and diagnostic tests, demonstrating a foundational commitment to preventive care.

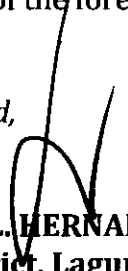
Despite these vital policy frameworks, a significant gap remains in ensuring universal, truly free, and consistently availed annual medical check-ups for all Filipinos. The urgent need for such a measure is underscored by compelling public health data: **non-communicable diseases (NCDs) now constitute the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines.** Some 2024 data reveals that ischemic heart

diseases, neoplasms (cancers), and cerebrovascular diseases (strokes) are consistently among the top causes of death, collectively accounting for a substantial percentage of all fatalities. Hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and overweight/obesity also show high prevalence rates across the population. These conditions, **often preventable or manageable if detected early**, place an immense burden on individuals, families, and the healthcare system.

While PhilHealth Konsulta is a commendable step, this proposed legislation seeks to **institutionalize and guarantee a free, comprehensive annual medical check-up for every Filipino, integrated seamlessly with their PhilHealth membership**. By removing financial barriers and ensuring accessibility, this legislative measure will empower individuals to proactively monitor their health, facilitate early detection of diseases, enable timely interventions, and ultimately reduce the incidence of severe complications and premature deaths attributed to NCDs. This proactive approach will not only alleviate the burden on tertiary healthcare facilities but also foster a healthier, more productive citizenry, truly embodying the spirit of universal health care and the constitutional right to health.

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

Approved,


RAMIL L. HERNANDEZ
2nd District, Laguna

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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 Act shall be known as the “Free Annual Medical Check-Up Act.”

Section 2. *Declaration of Principle.* – It is the policy of the State to support and promote the right to health by enhancing programs that focus on preventive and curative medicine that advance the health and well-being of Filipinos and prevent disease, disability, and death. Pursuant thereto, Filipinos shall be entitled to an annual medical check-up that is free of charge in any government hospital, institution, or centers.

Section 3. *Coverage.* – All Philippine citizens, by virtue of their membership in the National Health Insurance Program (PhilHealth), mandated under Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act, shall be entitled to the applicable benefits under PhilHealth.

Members shall be entitled to a free annual medical check-up that shall include blood sugar, cholesterol tests and other screening based on age, gender, personal medical history, family history, and lifestyle risk factors to ensure efficiency and relevance. Laboratory and diagnostic tests shall be expanded, subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds.

Section 4. *Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up.* – To promote health, identify risks, and ensure early diagnosis, PhilHealth shall establish a system that allows access to a free annual medical check-up and ensure that Filipinos shall be accorded the quality health care services that they deserve.

Section 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against PhilHealth funds.

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

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

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,