

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3669



Introduced by REP. DENNIS "TOM" L. HERNANDEZ

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR ALL FILIPINOS
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Further, Article XIII, Section 11 states that "The 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."

Despite the passage of the Universal Health Care Law and several other laws providing funding for its effective implementation, primary and preventive healthcare is still not a reality for all. A July 2025 report by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shows that 42.7% of healthcare spending for services is still paid out of pocket by Filipinos.

The PSA also reports that the five leading causes of death in the Philippines from 2023 to 2024 remain the same: ischaemic heart disease, neoplasms, cerebrovascular disease, pneumonia, and diabetes mellitus. Four of these top five causes are curable, even preventable, with early detection.

For Filipinos earning minimum wage, a medical check-up, which can cost anywhere from ₱1,500 to ₱25,000, is a steep price to pay. These costs, however, are far less than the cost of debilitating illness or death.

This bill seeks to ease the burden of our fellow countrymen by improving access to primary and preventive healthcare.

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

all
REP. DENNIS "TOM" L. HERNANDEZ
4th District of Rizal *[Signature]*

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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."***

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes its duty to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Pursuant to its duty, the State shall provide the services needed to ensure the health and wellness of every Filipino. Aside from enhancing programs that focus on curative medicine, there should be emphasis on improving the country's healthcare system in terms of preventive interventions and strengthening the health-seeking behavior of citizens. In line with this, Filipinos shall be entitled to an annual check-up, through the programs of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), that is free of charge in any government hospital and institution.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* –

- a) **Population Coverage.** – Every Filipino citizen shall be covered by the free annual medical check-up under this Act pursuant to Sec. 5 of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act.
- b) **Medical Check-up Coverage.** – PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall establish a program to provide Filipinos with free annual medical check-up including, but not limited to, blood sugar and cholesterol tests. *Provided, That,* prior to the availment of laboratory and/or diagnostic exams, the patient must first be screened by a PhilHealth-accredited primary care provider as stated under Sec. 6(d) of Republic Act No. 11223 in order to evaluate he patient and identify which laboratory and/or diagnostic exams should be administered. *Provided, further, That,* the availment of the laboratory

and/or diagnostic exams shall be through PhilHealth-accredited health care institutions (HCIs); *Provided, furthermore*, That upon approval of the PhilHealth Board, these laboratory and/or diagnostic exams shall be expanded subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds and the current and emerging health necessities of Filipinos.

SEC. 4. *Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up.* – The duration of availing the free medical check-up shall be for the whole calendar year. PhilHealth shall establish a system to secure that every Filipino will be accommodated and get the services that they are entitled to.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – PhilHealth shall be primarily responsible in implementing the provisions of this Act. PhilHealth, in consultation with DOH, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty (30) days upon effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the total revenue of PhilHealth, composed of premium contributions from direct contributors and premium subsidies of the government for the indirect contributors, of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provisions of this Act are declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,