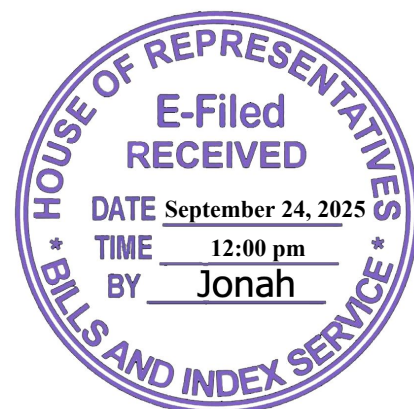




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4849**



INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to afford full protection to labor, promote social justice, and uphold the welfare of all workers, whether in the formal or informal sector. While much progress has been made in strengthening social security and health care systems, a significant portion of our workforce, those engaged in the informal sector, remain inadequately covered or completely excluded from these essential safety nets.

Informal sector workers such as pedicab drivers, street sweepers, sari-sari store vendors, vulcanizing shop workers, “habal-habal” drivers, and other similarly situated individuals perform indispensable functions in our communities and contribute significantly to both local and national economic growth. However, due to the absence of standard employer-employee relationships and the lack of formal mechanisms for social protection, they are left vulnerable to economic insecurity, health risks, and unforeseen crises.

This bill seeks to ensure that informal sector workers are covered by the Social Security System (SSS) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). By institutionalizing their inclusion, the measure promotes inclusivity, equity, and social justice, guaranteeing that no worker, regardless of employment status, will be left behind in the State’s pursuit of universal social protection and health care.

The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN
Representative, First District of Samar

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HOUSE BILL NO. 4849

INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

AN ACT EXTENDING SOCIAL SECURITY AND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO INFORMAL SECTOR WORKERS SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO PEDICAB DRIVERS, STREET SWEEPERS, SARI-SARI STORE SELLERS, AND VULCANIZING MACHINE SHOP WORKERS

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 “*Extended Social Security and Health Care Coverage for Informal Sector Workers Act*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to extend full protection to labor, promote social justice, and provide accessible, affordable, and sustainable social security and health care services. The State recognizes the vital contribution of informal sector workers, such as but not limited to as pedicab drivers, street sweepers, sari-sari store sellers, vulcanizing machine shop workers, “habal-habal” drivers, and other similarly situated workers, to the local and national economy. It is therefore imperative to ensure that these workers are covered under the programs of the Social Security System (SSS) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

SECTION 3. *Extended Social Security Coverage.* The following workers shall be included within the coverage of SSS and PhilHealth:

- (a) Pedicab drivers;
- (b) Street sweepers;
- (c) Sari-sari store sellers and operators;
- (d) Vulcanizing machine shop workers;
- (e) “Habal-habal” drivers; and
- (f) Such other informal sector workers as may be identified by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the concerned local government units (LGUs).

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) Informal Sector Workers – individuals engaged in small-scale, low-income, and often unregulated livelihood activities, including but not limited to pedicab drivers, street sweepers, sari-sari store sellers, vulcanizing machine shop workers, “habal-habal” drivers, and similarly situated workers.
- (b) Pedicab Driver – a person who operates a non-motorized tricycle (pedal-driven vehicle) for passenger or goods transport.
- (c) “Habal-habal” Driver – a person who operates a motorcycle for hire for passenger or goods transport, whether registered or unregistered.
- (d) Sari-sari Store Seller/Operator – a person engaged in the retail sale of basic goods and commodities through small neighborhood stores.
- (e) Vulcanizing Machine Shop Worker – a person employed in tire repair or vulcanizing establishments, whether formal or informal in operation.
- (f) Street Sweeper – a person engaged by LGUs, communities, or private organizations to maintain cleanliness in streets and public places, whether under contract or casual arrangement.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Agencies, Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Social Security System (SSS) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), in consultation with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and concerned LGUs, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

The IRR shall:

- (a) Strengthen mechanisms for registration and premium collection from informal sector workers;
- (b) Provide an information dissemination program on available services, benefits, and loan facilities for covered workers;
- (c) Promote coordination between PhilHealth and informal sector organizations in determining financial capability and entitlement to government subsidies; and
- (d) Ensure collaboration with LGUs to maximize enrollment, monitoring, and benefit distribution.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,