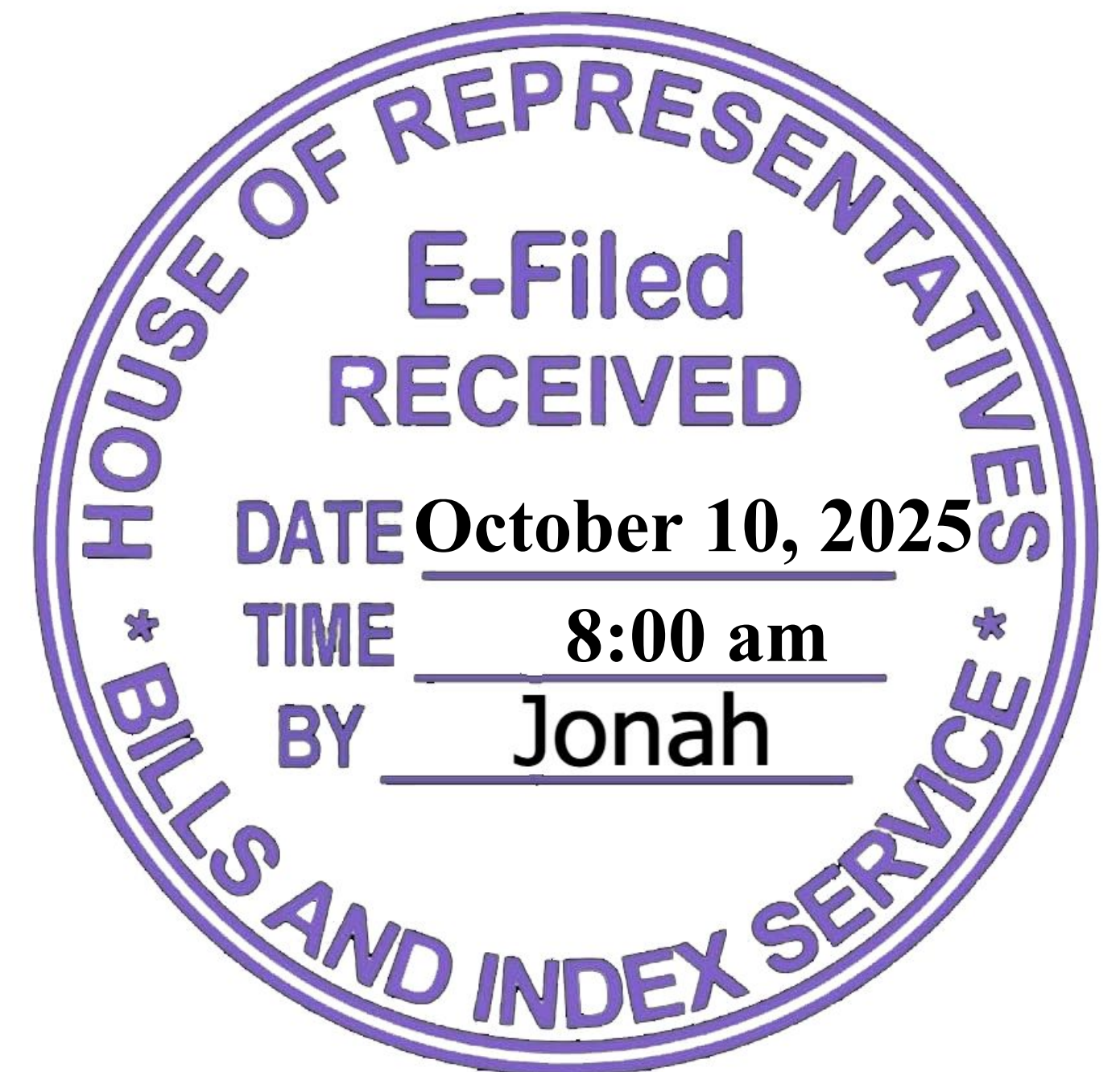


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5428



Introduced by Representative Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR FILIPINOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many Filipinos, especially those in low-income and rural areas, struggle to access preventive healthcare. The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that out-of-pocket payments made up 44.7% of total health expenditures in 2021, discouraging timely medical consultations. The Department of Health also found that 6 out of 10 Filipinos die without ever seeing a doctor, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced early intervention and regular health monitoring.

This bill seeks to institutionalize one free annual medical check-up for all Filipinos, administered through PhilHealth. The check-up will include a general physical examination and basic diagnostic tests, such as blood work, imaging, and age-appropriate screenings. These services will be integrated with existing PhilHealth programs, like the Konsulta package, to ensure efficient and coordinated delivery.

Funding will come from PhilHealth's current revenue sources, in line with the Universal Health Care Act. By prioritizing preventive care, this measure aims to promote health awareness, enable early detection of diseases, and build a healthier, more resilient population. The passage of this bill is therefore strongly advocated.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Representative, 2nd District of Pampanga

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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 "Libreng 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 health care 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 medical 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. Population Coverage. — Every Filipino citizen shall be covered by the free annual medical check-up under this Act, pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act."

Sec. 4. Medical Check-Up Coverage. — PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall establish a program to provide Filipinos with a free annual medical check-up, which shall include, but not be limited to, a general physical examination and the following basic laboratory and diagnostic tests:

- a) Blood tests (such as complete blood count, fasting blood sugar, lipid profile)
- b) Urine and stool examinations
- c) Chest x-ray and other imaging procedures
- d) Electrocardiogram (ECG)
- e) Cancer screening tests based on age and risk factors (such as Pap smear, PSA Test)
- f) Other screening or diagnostic procedures as may be necessary based on the patient's medical evaluation.

Provided, That prior to the availment of any laboratory and/or diagnostic examinations, the patient must first be screened by a PhilHealth-accredited primary care provider, as stated under Section 6(d) of R.A. No. 11223, to evaluate and determine the appropriate examinations to be administered:

Provided, further, That such examinations shall be conducted through PhilHealth-accredited health care institutions (HCIs) :

Provided, furthermore, That the coverage of laboratory and/or diagnostic examinations may be expanded, subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds and based on the current and emerging health needs of Filipinos:

Provided, finally, That this program may be implemented and harmonized with existing and future programs of PhilHealth, including but not limited to the Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta) package, without prejudice to the development or expansion of other programs aligned with this Act.

Sec. 5. 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. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – PhilHealth shall be primarily responsible for the implementation of this Act. Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Sec. 7. 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. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. – All other laws, decrees, orders, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,