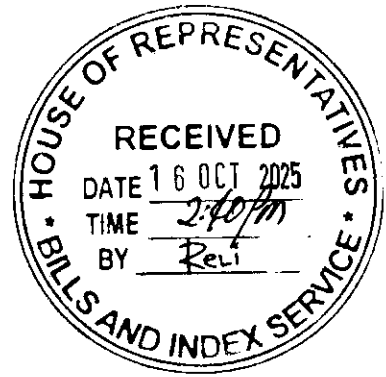




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5601



Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that “The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights, including the right to health.” This constitutional mandate underscores the obligation of the State to ensure that every Filipino has access to quality, equitable, and timely healthcare services.

Despite the enactment of the Universal Health Care Act (Republic Act No. 11223), the Philippine healthcare system continues to face significant challenges in managing patient information. Fragmented medical records often result in delayed treatments, repeated diagnostic tests, and medical errors. These inefficiencies are particularly felt in rural and underserved areas, where limited access to comprehensive patient data slows interventions, complicates disease monitoring, and makes it harder for the system to provide smooth and well-coordinated care nationwide. According to a study conducted by Elepaño et al., which examined the implementation of electronic health records in Philippine primary care settings, disparities in digital health adoption and fragmented patient records remain significant barriers to timely and coordinated healthcare delivery.

To address these challenges, the “One Patient – One Health Record Act of 2025” proposes the establishment of a National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS). Through this system, every Filipino will receive a unique Digital Health ID linked to their complete medical history. The NEHRS will facilitate secure sharing of patient information among authorized healthcare providers, reduce redundant procedures, and ensure continuity of care, particularly during emergencies.

The system will integrate with existing government platforms, feature comprehensive patient profiles, provide offline access for rural and underserved communities, and ensure strict compliance with data privacy laws. Public health facilities will be required to adopt the NEHRS within two years, while private hospitals and clinics will be mandated by the third year, with incentives offered for early adoption.

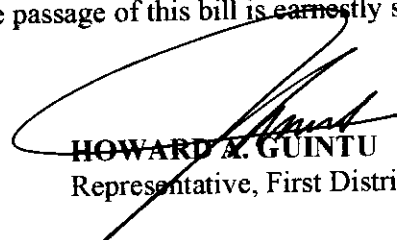
Thus, this bill will serve four main purposes: it aims to modernize the Philippine healthcare system, safeguard the constitutional right to health, provide equitable access to

¹ Elepaño, A., Tan-Lim, C. S., Javelosa, M. A., De Mesa, R. Y., Rey, M., Sanchez, J., Dans, L., & Dans, A. M. Philippine Medical Journal. 2025. *Implementing Electronic Health Records in Philippine Primary Care Settings: Mixed-Methods Pilot Study*. Retrieved from: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12283060>

medical services for all Filipinos, and strengthen healthcare delivery by enabling secure, interoperable, and continuous access to patient information through the NEHRS.

By institutionalizing this system, the NEHRS will improve patient care, enhance public health planning, and support faster, more effective responses during emergencies.

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



HOWARD A. GUINTU
Representative, First District of Capiz



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5601

Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM TO
ENSURE CONTINUITY OF CARE, IMPROVE MEDICAL EFFICIENCY, AND
PROMOTE UNIVERSAL HEALTH ACCESS FOR ALL FILIPINOS

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 "One Patient - One Health Record Act of 2025."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino. To this end, the government shall institutionalize a secure, interoperable, and universally accessible Electronic Health Record (EHR) system that ensures efficient, seamless, and continuous healthcare services nationwide.

SEC. 3. This Act seeks to:

- a. Create a National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) for all citizens;
- b. Assign every Filipino a unique digital health ID linked to their medical history;
- c. Facilitate data sharing among authorized healthcare providers;
- d. Enhance healthcare delivery, reduce redundancy, and save lives during emergencies;
- e. Support public health monitoring, disease surveillance, and national health planning.

SEC. 4. The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall develop and implement the NEHRS. The system shall include:

- a. Individual patient profiles including medical history, lab results, prescriptions, allergies, and immunizations;
- b. Access protocols for public and private health facilities, governed by data privacy and patient consent;
- c. Offline access mechanisms for rural and underserved areas;
- d. Integration with PhilHealth, Universal Health Care databases, and local government unit (LGU) health systems.

SEC. 5. Every Filipino shall be assigned a Digital Health ID, which shall be:

- a. Linked to their PhilSys (National ID) number or issued separately if unavailable;
- b. Usable across all public hospitals, RHUs, and licensed private facilities;
- c. Securely stored with biometric or multi-factor authentication features for access.

SEC. 6. The following shall be required to adopt the NEHRS within two (2) years:

- a. All DOH-retained hospitals and provincial hospitals;
- b. All public rural health units (RHUs), barangay health stations, and city health offices;
- c. All state universities and colleges (SUCs) offering medical and health courses;
- d. Private hospitals and clinics may participate voluntarily within the first year and shall be mandated to adopt the system by the third year, with incentives provided for early adoption.

SEC. 7. Strict compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173) shall be enforced.

- a. Patients must provide informed consent for access to their records.
- b. All data shall be encrypted and stored in secure, government-certified cloud or on-premise systems.
- c. Penalties shall be imposed for unauthorized access, misuse, or data breaches.

SEC. 8. The necessary funds for the operation, maintenance, upgrades, and capacity building of the National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) shall be appropriated annually under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 9. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DICT, PhilHealth, and the National Privacy Commission, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SEC. 10. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *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,