

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5767



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The "Magna Carta for Public School Teachers" (Republic Act No. 4670) is a landmark legislation that grants various rights and benefits to public school teachers. Section 22 of this law mandates a free compulsory medical examination annually.

However, the current provision lacks the specifics regarding the scope and extent of the medical examination, often resulting in a perfunctory or incomplete assessment that fails to detect serious, but often preventable, diseases.

Public school teachers often work under conditions of significant stress and demanding workloads. They are exposed daily to various illnesses from students and are sometimes tasked with duties beyond classroom instruction. Their health is paramount to maintaining a quality education system. A healthy teaching force is a productive teaching force.

This proposed amendment seeks to address this gap by explicitly specifying and expanding the minimum coverage of the annual free medical examination. By incorporating essential diagnostic procedures, such as:

- Complete Physical Examination: A thorough check-up by a physician.
- Blood Chemistry (Blood Chem): Crucial for detecting diseases like diabetes, high cholesterol, and kidney or liver problems.
- Urinalysis and Fecalalysis: Essential for screening for infections, kidney disorders, and parasitic/gastrointestinal issues.
- Chest X-ray: Vital for detecting pulmonary diseases, most notably tuberculosis, which is a significant public health concern.

This proactive approach will facilitate the early detection, prevention, and timely management of serious health conditions, thereby reducing medical costs in the long run and ensuring teachers remain fit to fulfill their indispensable roles in nation-building.

While this expanded benefit will require an increased budgetary allocation from the Department of Education (DepEd), the investment in the health of public school teachers is an investment in the future of the nation. The cost of prevention is significantly lower than the cost of treating advanced-stage diseases or the societal cost of prolonged absence due to illness or premature disability of a teacher.

The DepEd, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), is tasked to secure the necessary funds for its full implementation.

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



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 22 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS,” THEREBY PROVIDING FREE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL CHECK-UP FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Amendment.* - Section 22 of Republic Act No. 4670 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 22. *Medical Examination and Treatment.* —

- (a) Compulsory medical examination shall be provided free of charge for all teachers annually, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following minimum diagnostic procedures:
1. Complete Physical Examination;
 2. Blood Chemistry (Blood Chem);
 3. Urinalysis;
 4. Fecalalysis; and
 5. Chest X-ray.
- (b) The examination shall be comprehensive and complete to ensure early detection and prevention of health issues.
- (c) The Department of Education shall appropriate funds necessary to implement this expanded medical examination, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) or accredited government and private health facilities.

(d) Treatment and/or hospitalization necessary arising from such examination shall also be given free of charge, and if due to injuries sustained while in the performance of duty, the teacher shall be entitled to full compensation under existing laws."

SEC. 2. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause* – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulation, and other issuances or part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,