

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6380



Introduced by Representative ANTOLIN “LENLEN” A. ORETA III

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the State’s duty to protect and promote the right to health of the Filipino people and to adopt a comprehensive approach to health development that shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services accessible to all.

Yet access to health care remains limited for many Filipinos. Annual medical check-ups, which are essential for the early detection and proper management of diseases, remain beyond the reach of a significant portion of the population. The high cost of consultations and basic laboratory tests discourages individuals from seeking care. World Bank data show that 44.36% of total health spending in the Philippines is borne directly by households, reflecting the heavy financial strain. Likewise, the Philippine Statistics Authority reported that in 2023, 336,922 deaths, or 48.5% of total cases were unattended. For workers earning minimum wages, those in the informal sector, and families with limited resources, the cost of routine check-ups often amounts to several thousand pesos, posing a considerable challenge, making access to preventive services difficult for many.

This bill seeks to address this urgent concern by guaranteeing every Filipino citizen at least one free medical check-up annually, in line with the Universal Health Care Act (Republic Act No. 11223). The program shall be administered through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and accredited health facilities nationwide. The annual check-up shall include a general physical examination as well as standard laboratory and diagnostic procedures designed to identify common illnesses, such as blood tests, urine and stool analysis, chest x-ray, electrocardiogram (ECG), and age- and risk-based cancer screening.

By institutionalizing free annual medical check-ups, this measure shifts the health system’s emphasis toward prevention rather than cure, reduces the burden of chronic and non-communicable diseases, and upholds the constitutional mandate to make health services accessible and affordable to all Filipinos.

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


ANTOLIN “LENLEN” A. ORÉTA III
Lone District of Malabon City

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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 13 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 10 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,