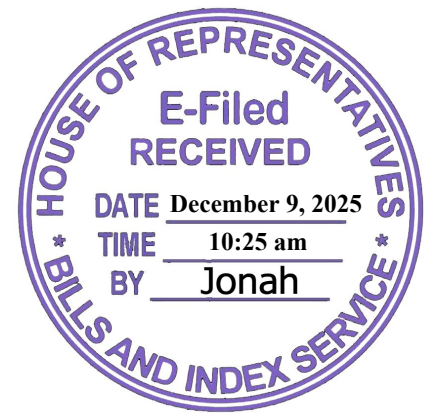


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6691

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

**AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution states that "[t]he State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

Despite the establishment of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to achieve universal healthcare, many Filipinos continue to face financial barriers in accessing timely and quality medical treatment. The high cost of healthcare, compounded by limited benefit coverage, often leads to delayed consultations and exacerbated illnesses, conditions that perpetuate poverty and undermine the people's overall well-being.

It is therefore essential for PhilHealth to strike a balance between premium collection and more importantly, continuous enhancement of benefit packages, ensuring that its financial operations remain aligned with its overarching mission to provide sufficient and equitable healthcare coverage for all Filipinos. In this regard, the proposed amendment to Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11223 introduces a crucial safeguard to strengthen the responsiveness and sustainability of the National Health Insurance Program. By mandating the PhilHealth Board, in consultation with the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC), to conduct a periodic review and adjustment of benefit packages every three years, the measure ensures that PhilHealth benefits remain updated, evidence-based, and attuned to evolving healthcare needs and technological advancements.

Equally important is the provision guaranteeing that existing benefit packages shall not be reduced, thereby preventing any regression in healthcare entitlements. This amendment reinforces accountability incentivization, refocus and forward planning within PhilHealth, ultimately ensuring that the national health insurance system remains fair, sustainable, and firmly anchored in the constitutional promise of accessible healthcare for all.

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



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO

Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 1. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

3
4 Sec. 9. Entitlement to Benefits. - Every member shall be granted immediate
5 eligibility for health benefit package under the NHIP: Provided, That PhilHealth
6 Identification Card shall not be required in the availment of any health services:
7 Provided further, That no co-payments shall be charged for services rendered in
8 basic accommodation: Provided furthermore, That co-payments and co-
9 insurance for amenities in public hospitals shall be regulated by the DOH and
10 PhilHealth: **PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT THE PHILHEALTH BOARD,**
11 **IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT**
12 **COUNCIL, SHALL CONDUCT PERIODIC REVIEW AND AJUSTMENT OF**
13 **BENEFIT PACKAGES EVERY THREE YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF**
14 **THIS ACT: PROVIDED, FINALLY,** That the current PhilHealth package for
15 members shall not be reduced.

16
17
18 **SEC 2.** Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11223, as amended is hereby amended as
19 follows:

20
21 ~~"Section 12. Administrative Expense. — No more than seven and one half~~
22 ~~percent (7.5%) of the actual total premium collected from direct and indirect~~
23 ~~contributory members during the immediately preceding year shall be allotted~~
24 ~~for the administrative cost of implementing the Program.~~
25

1 **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. THE USE, DISPOSITION, INVESTMENT,**
2 **DISBURSEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE**
3 **NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND, INCLUDING ANY SUBSIDY,**
4 **GRANT OR DONATION RECEIVED FOR PROGRAM OPERATIONS SHALL**
5 **BE GOVERNED BY APPLICABLE LAWS AND IN THE ABSENCE**
6 **THEREOF, EXISTING RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
7 **OF THE CORPORATION, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING LIMITATIONS:**

8
9 **THE CORPORATION IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE TO THE VARIOUS**
10 **FUNDS UNDER ITS CONTROL THE COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE**
11 **PROGRAM. SUCH COSTS MAY INCLUDE ADMINISTRATION,**
12 **MONITORING, MARKETING AND PROMOTION, RESEARCH AND**
13 **DEVELOPMENT, AUDIT AND EVALUATION, INFORMATION SERVICES,**
14 **AND OTHER NECESSARY ACTIVITIES FOR THE EFFECTIVE**
15 **MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM. THE TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS FOR**
16 **THESE SHALL NOT EXCEED THE SUM TOTAL OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- 17
18 **(I) FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS; AND**
19 **(II) TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS**
20 **(III) FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE INVESTMENT EARNINGS**
21 **GENERATED DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR."**

22
23 **SEC. 3. Continuity of Benefits.** – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to
24 eliminate or diminish any benefits or entitlements already granted to members of
25 PhilHealth.

26
27 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
28 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
29 remain in force and effect.

30
31 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
32 letters of instructions, proclamations, and administrative regulations that are
33 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
34 accordingly.

35
36 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect immediately following the
37 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
38 circulation.

Approved,