

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6819



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Kidney disease remains a pressing public health concern in the Philippines, with chronic kidney disease (CKD) ranking among the top causes of mortality nationwide. Data from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) show that one Filipino develops chronic renal failure every hour, underscoring the scale of the burden on families and the health system¹. Senior citizens, who are particularly vulnerable due to age-related comorbidities, represent a significant portion of those requiring lifelong dialysis treatment. For many of them, dialysis is not only a medical necessity but a matter of survival.

At present, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has expanded its coverage to include up to 156 hemodialysis sessions per year for patients with end-stage renal disease.² This expansion provides substantial relief, but it remains limited in scope. The benefit is capped, does not fully cover ancillary costs such as medications and laboratory tests, and is dependent on PhilHealth's annual budgetary adjustments. Moreover, access to accredited facilities is uneven, leaving seniors in rural and underserved areas at a disadvantage. Thus, while PhilHealth's expanded package is commendable, it is not a permanent guarantee of free dialysis for senior citizens.

This situation reveals a clear legislative gap. Current policy is administrative in nature and can be revised or reduced depending on fiscal constraints. There is no law that explicitly mandates free dialysis for senior citizens, leaving them vulnerable to policy shifts and financial burdens. For seniors who are often unemployed, reliant on pensions, or living within low-income households, the absence of a statutory entitlement translates into uncertainty and inequity in access to life-saving treatment.

¹ Philhealth Circular No. 2024-0023

² <https://assistance.ph/philhealth-dialysis-coverage-guide/>

The proposed measure seeks to close this gap by enshrining into law the right of senior citizens to free hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health-approved dialysis procedures. Its objective is to transform what is currently a discretionary benefit into a permanent entitlement, ensuring that no senior citizen is denied treatment due to financial incapacity or administrative changes. By legislating this guarantee, the State affirms its constitutional duty to protect the health and welfare of its elderly population, while addressing the growing burden of kidney disease in a sustainable and equitable manner.

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



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE HEMODIALYSIS, PERITONEAL DIALYSIS,
AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROVED DIALYSIS
PROCEDURES TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Free Dialysis
for Senior Citizens Act of 2025."

SECTION 2. *Free Dialysis Sessions for All Senior Citizens.* — All senior
citizens shall be entitled to free hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other dialysis
procedures as may be approved by the Department of Health (DOH). The cost of such
treatments, including necessary drugs, supplies, and laboratory procedures, shall be
fully covered through appropriations in the national budget and by the Philippine Health
Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). These services shall be made available at
government hospitals, DOH-retained facilities, and freestanding dialysis centers duly
accredited by PhilHealth, with private facilities encouraged to participate through
reimbursement arrangements.

This entitlement shall apply specifically to dialysis sessions that exceed
the annual number of sessions already provided free of charge under PhilHealth
coverage. Coverage shall include the use of dialysis solutions and medicines
listed in the latest edition of the Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF), as
well as ancillary laboratory procedures deemed necessary by attending
physicians. The DOH, in coordination with PhilHealth and local government
units, shall establish mechanisms for direct provision of services or
reimbursement, ensuring that no senior citizen is denied treatment due to
financial incapacity, geographic location, or administrative delays.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* — The amount needed for the implementation
of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH and the

PhilHealth in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act and their own respective funds. Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments in the annual General Appropriations.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH, the PhilHealth, and the National Commission on Senior Citizens ("NCSC"), in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall formulate rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and enforcement of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *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,