

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7014



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public school teachers are the backbone of the nation's educational system. They are tasked not only with the intellectual development of the youth but also with various community and administrative duties that often take a toll on their physical and mental well-being. Despite their critical role, many teachers struggle with the rising costs of healthcare, often relying on the limited coverage provided by PhilHealth, which may not cover comprehensive outpatient services, emergency care, and specialized diagnostics.

The current "Magna Carta for Public School Teachers" (Republic Act No. 4670) mandates that the government provide for the health and medical needs of teachers. However, in practice, teachers still shoulder significant out-of-pocket expenses for their medical treatments.

This bill seeks to provide all public school teachers with a comprehensive Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) package. By providing a dedicated HMO coverage in addition to PhilHealth benefits, we ensure that our educators have immediate access to quality private and public medical facilities, preventative healthcare, and emergency services.

A healthy teacher is a more effective educator. Investing in their health is an investment in the quality of education for our children and the future of our country.

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 PROVIDING HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (HMO)
COVERAGE FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 “Public School Teachers’ Health Protection Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Recognizing that the education sector is a vital pillar of national development, the State shall ensure the physical and mental well-being of public school teachers by providing them with adequate health care benefits and protection.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all public school teachers in the elementary, secondary, and tertiary levels, including those in vocational and technical schools, who are under the employ of the Department of Education (DepEd) or the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 4. *HMO Benefit Package.* – In addition to the benefits provided by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), all covered public school teachers shall be entitled to a comprehensive Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) medical insurance package. The HMO package shall include, but not be limited to:

- Outpatient Services: Consultations, laboratory tests, and diagnostic procedures;
- Inpatient Services: Room and board, physician’s fees, and surgical requirements;

- Emergency Care: Coverage for emergency room fees and immediate treatment;
- Annual Physical Examination (APE): Comprehensive annual check-ups; and
- Mental Health Support: Access to psychiatric or psychological consultations and therapy.

SEC. 5. *Procurement.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall conduct a competitive public bidding to engage the services of reputable HMO providers capable of providing nationwide coverage.

SEC. 6. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Budget and Management, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, 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 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,