



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7162

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill seeks to grant free Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) coverage for full-time faculty and regular non-teaching personnel of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the Philippines. It aims to protect academic workers from the high costs of serious illness, which often exceed standard benefits from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and could potentially wipe out their savings.

The bill addresses the need to attract and retain high-quality professionals in the public higher education sector by improving their welfare and financial security. The bill recognizes the contributions of teaching professionals in delivering high-quality education, conducting research, extending services to the community, and maintaining institutional operations. They are responsible for shaping the country's future workforce. The measure is also designed to fulfill the constitutional mandate to give education the highest budgetary priority. By investing in the health of SUC personnel, the bill seeks to enhance their well-being and productivity, as well as offer them health security and peace of mind.

The bill empowers the respective SUC Board of Regents to customize health plans, ensuring that institutional support for employees' well-being remains a priority.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY FREE HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (HMO) PLAN COVERAGE TO FACULTY AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the *"Free Health Card for*
2 *all State Universities and Colleges (SUC) Personnel Act."*
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby the policy of the State to give priority
5 to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and
6 nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and
7 development. It is also the policy of the State to assign the highest budgetary priority
8 to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the
9 best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job
10 satisfaction and fulfillment. Towards this end, and to protect the welfare of teaching
11 and non-teaching personnel, the State shall establish mandatory Health Maintenance
12 Organization (HMO) coverage to augment their healthcare coverage in case of health-
13 related contingencies.
14

15 **SEC. 3. Mandatory HMO Coverage.** – All SUCs shall provide mandatory HMO
16 coverage to all full-time faculty and regular non-teaching personnel of State
17 Universities and Colleges (SUCS). For this purpose, the Board of Regents of each
18 SUC shall have the discretion to decide the form, coverage, and terms of the services
19 to be provided by an HMO.
20

21 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the approval and implementation of the
22 mandatory HMO coverage provided under this Act shall not require any approval from
23 other agencies or officials.
24

1 For the avoidance of doubt, the mandatory HMO coverage provided under this
2 Act shall be in addition to the existing healthcare program provided to all government
3 employees through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.
4

5 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
6 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the State
7 Universities and Colleges. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
8 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
9 Appropriations Act.
10

11 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
12 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
13 remain in force and effect.
14

15 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
16 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
17 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
19 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
20

21 *Approved,*