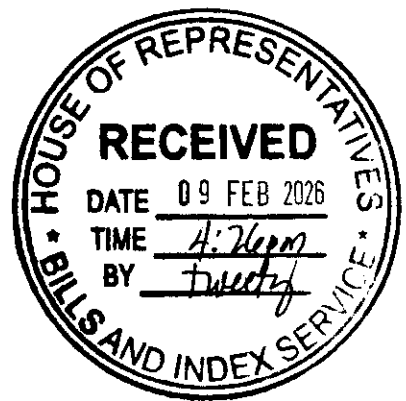




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 7690

Introduced by Representative FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many Filipinos delay seeking medical attention primarily due to the cost of consultations and diagnostic tests. High medical costs remains a major barrier to routine medical consultations resulting in delayed treatment, preventable complications, and increased health care expenditures for both families and the government. This fear of many have resulted to the proliferation of illnesses which, in hindsight, could have been prevented with adequate and early detection through a simple check-up or a visit to a health facility.

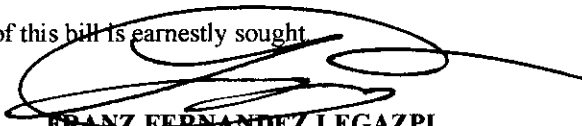
Regular medical check-ups are essential in detecting health risks early and encouraging health-seeking behavior. Despite advances in health care access, many Filipinos continue to seek medical attention only when illness has already progressed to serious or life-threatening stages.

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. A strong health care system must therefore prioritize preventive care and early disease detection, alongside curative services, to improve health outcomes and reduce long-term medical costs.

With this imprimatur, we aim to legislate the "*Libreng Check-Up Act*," seeking to provide all Filipinos with a free annual medical check-up through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), consistent with Republic Act No. 11223 or the *Universal Health Care Act*. This measure covers the provision of free general physical examination and basic laboratory and diagnostic tests, subject to medical evaluation by a PhilHealth-accredited primary care provider and to be conducted in PhilHealth-accredited health care institutions. This measure also supplements existing PhilHealth initiatives, including the Konsulta package, and permits the expansion of its services based on available funds and emerging health needs.

By institutionalizing free annual medical check-ups, this measure strengthens preventive health care, promotes early detection of disease, and advances equitable access to essential health services for all Filipinos.

For the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI
Representative, PINOY WORKERS PARTYLIST

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **7690**

Introduced by Representative FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI

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

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 "*Libreng Check-Up Act*."
- 2
- 3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State recognizes its duty to protect and promote the
- 4 right to health of the people. Pursuant to its duty, the State shall provide the services needed to
- 5 ensure the health and wellness of every Filipino. Aside from enhancing programs that focus on
- 6 curative medicine, there should be emphasis on improving the country's health care system in
- 7 terms of preventive interventions and strengthening the health-seeking behavior of citizens. In
- 8 line with this, Filipinos shall be entitled to an annual medical check-up, through the programs of
- 9 the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), that is free of charge in any
- 10 government hospital and institution.
- 11
- 12 **Sec. 3. Population Coverage.** - Every Filipino citizen shall be covered by the free annual
- 13 medical check-up under this Act, pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise
- 14 known as the "Universal Health Care Act."
- 15
- 16 **Sec. 4. Medical Check-Up Coverage.** - PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of
- 17 Health (DOH), shall establish a program to provide Filipinos with a free annual medical check-
- 18 up, which shall include, but not be limited to a general physical examination and the following
- 19 basic laboratory and diagnostic tests:
- 20
- 21 a. Blood tests (such as complete blood count, fasting blood sugar, lipid profile)
- 22 b. Urine and stool examinations
- 23 c. Chest x-ray and other imaging procedures
- 24 d. Electrocardiogram (ECG)
- 25 e. Cancer screening tests based on age and risk factors (such as Pap smear, PSA test
- 26 f. Other screening or diagnostic procedures as may be necessary based on the patient's
- 27 medical evaluation.
- 28
- 29 *Provided,* That prior to the availment of any laboratory and/or diagnostic examinations, the
- 30 patient must first be screened by a PhilHealth-accredited primary care provider, as stated under

1 Section 6(d) of R.A. No. 11223, to evaluate and determine the appropriate examinations to be
2 administered:

3
4 *Provided, further,* That such examinations shall be conducted through PhilHealth-accredited
5 health care institutions (HCIS):

6
7 *Provided, furthermore,* That the coverage of laboratory and/or diagnostic examinations may be
8 expanded, subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds and based on the current and emerging
9 health needs of Filipinos:

10
11 *Provided, finally,* That this program may be implemented and harmonized with existing and
12 future programs of PhilHealth, including but not limited to the Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama
13 (Konsulta) package, without prejudice to the development or expansion of other programs
14 aligned with this Act.

15
16 **Sec. 5. *Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up.*** - The duration of availing the free medical
17 check-up shall be for the whole calendar year. PhilHealth shall establish a system to secure that
18 every Filipino will be accommodated and get the services that they are entitled to.

19
20 **Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - PhilHealth shall be primarily responsible for
21 the implementation of this Act. Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act,
22 PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall promulgate the
23 necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

24
25 **Sec. 7. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged
26 against the total revenue of PhilHealth, composed of premium contributions from direct
27 contributors and premium subsidies of the government for the indirect contributors, of the year
28 following its enactment into law and thereafter.

29
30 **Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or
31 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and
32 effect.

33
34 **Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All other laws, decrees, orders, other issuances, rules and
35 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
36 modified accordingly.

37
38 **Sec. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
39 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

40
41 *Approved,*