



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7823

Introduced by **Representative EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to health is a fundamental constitutional guarantee. However, the current Philippine healthcare landscape remains burdened by systematic inefficiencies with patient data dispersed across various health facilities, leading to redundant diagnostic costs and delays in treatment.

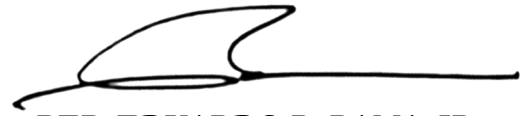
Currently, the patient's health record is often limited to a specific health facility. For example, a medical history documented in a Rural Health Unit (RHU) isn't accessible to a provider in a tertiary hospital. This lack of an integrated system results in redundant and sometimes unnecessary diagnostic tests, leading Filipinos to bear higher out-of-pocket health costs.

In light of the current state of the health sector, the proposed "Health Passport System Act" aims to modernize healthcare in the Philippines by ensuring that every Filipino has a unified, portable, and digitized record of their medical history linked to the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys).

Additionally, the bill mandates that every indigent or disadvantaged Filipino receive a comprehensive executive check-up at least once a year. This check-up will include physical and dental assessments, laboratory diagnostics, and routine immunizations, all provided free of charge.

The system will employ Quick Response (QR) codes linked to PhilHealth membership to facilitate seamless authentication in both physical and digital formats. Furthermore, all public health facilities, especially Rural Health Units (RHUs), will be required to digitize their records to create a shareable national database. Through the consolidation of diagnosis, immunization records, and prescription history into a single, accessible platform, this proposed measure shall provide a streamlined platform that is readily accessible to the patients and healthcare providers, while also maximizing the utility of the national ID system.

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

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a horizontal line.

REP. EDUARDO R. RAMA, JR.

2nd District, City of Cebu



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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HEALTH PASSPORT SYSTEM INTEGRATED WITH THE PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (PHILSYS), STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTHCARE BY MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO ENSURE THAT EVERY INDIGENT OR DISADVANTAGED FILIPINO CITIZEN RECEIVES, FREE OF CHARGE, A COMPREHENSIVE EXECUTIVE CHECK-UP AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Health Passport System Act".

2 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote
3 the right to health and instill health consciousness. The State guarantees universal access to affordable,
4 quality health care, especially to the underprivileged.

5 Also, the State recognizes the need to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to
6 health development, which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services
7 available to all the people at affordable costs.

8 It is also the policy of the State to promote scientific and technological research and
9 development, foster invention, and utilize scientific knowledge as an effective instrument for the
10 promotion of national progress. This includes the full utilization of the latest technology in the delivery
11 of basic services to Filipinos, including healthcare services.

1 In the pursuit of an integrated approach to health development, the State shall harness the
2 Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) created under Republic Act No. 11055 as the
3 foundational digital identity for every Health Passport holder, thereby avoiding duplicative
4 enrolment and ensuring seamless authentication across all public health facilities.

5 **SECTION 3. *National Health Passport System.*** — Consistent with the above policies, the
6 Department of Health (DOH), in joint coordination with the Department of Information and
7 Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the
8 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of the Interior and Local
9 Government (DILG), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and the Local Government Units
10 (LGUs), shall design and implement the National Health Passport System.

11 **SECTION 4. *Content and Purpose.*** — For purposes of this Act, the Health Passport shall be
12 the personal record booklet containing:

- 13 a. A patient's medical and dental history as recorded by a duly-licensed healthcare professional;
- 14 b. The names of duly-licensed healthcare professionals which the patient consulted, including the
15 date of such consultation;
- 16 c. Results of laboratory examinations;
- 17 d. Diagnosis;
- 18 e. Immunization records;
- 19 f. Drugs and medical devices prescribed, including the quantity and frequency of intake or use, as
20 the case may be, of the same;
- 21 g. Information on all medical and health related benefits provided by laws, including benefits from
22 the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);
- 23 h. Information regarding the patient's medical rights and privileges under the passport system;
- 24 and
- 25 i. Such other details which the DOH may deem appropriate.

26 The Health Passport shall be used as valid identification to avail of free medical services, including
27 diagnostics and treatment, in public hospitals, subject to the guidelines to be set by the DOH.

1 The DICT and DOST may utilize the latest available technology, such as, but not limited to,
2 the use of a Quick Response (QR) Code which shall be linked with permanent PhilHealth membership
3 number and other pertinent details, to implement this Act.

4 **SECTION 5. *Integration with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys).*** — The
5 National Health Passport System shall be interoperable with the PhilSys registry so that every Health
6 Passport is linked to the holder's PhilSys Number (PSN) and may be accessed or presented through
7 PhilSys-enabled credentials, physical or digital. The DOH and all other implementing agencies shall
8 verify the PSN prior to the creation of any Health Passport record, to prevent duplicate or fictitious
9 enrolments.

10 Upon the Health Passport holder's option, a machine-readable QR code, or any successor
11 digital platform approved by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), containing a secure Uniform
12 Resource Locator (URL) to the holder's Health Passport record may be printed or embedded on the
13 PhilID. Presentation of said PhilID or its digital equivalent shall constitute full compliance with any
14 requirement to present the Health Passport.

15 **SECTION 6. *Authority to Access Passport.*** — All personal and health-related information
16 processed under this Act shall be protected in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173, Republic Act
17 No. 11055, and their respective implementing rules and regulations. The DOH, PSA, and DICT shall
18 implement a consent-management mechanism by which data subjects may approve or refuse access
19 to their Health Passport records. In the absence of the relatives, the physician in charge of the patient
20 shall be authorized to review the patient's Health Passport.

21 **SECTION 7. *Scope of the Health Passport Program.*** — All Filipino citizens shall be entitled
22 to a personal Health Passport, which shall be used for availing of medical services or treatment
23 provided in public or private medical institutions.

24 The parents or legal guardians of children born after the effectivity of this Act shall be required
25 to enroll their children in the Health Passport System program. Failure to provide the child with
26 medical check-ups and immunization shall constitute an act of child abuse or cruelty, punishable under
27 Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse,
28 Exploitation and Discrimination Act."

1 **SECTION 8. *Procedure.*** - Cities, municipalities, and Barangays, together with the DSWD
2 and in coordination with the PSA, shall be responsible for the distribution of health passports.

3 **SECTION 9. *Annual Comprehensive Check-Up Program.*** — The DOH, in coordination
4 with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), the Department of the Interior and
5 Local Government (DILG), and all LGUs, shall ensure that every indigent or disadvantaged Filipino
6 citizen receives, at least once per calendar year, a comprehensive executive medical examination free
7 of charge at any public primary healthcare facility.

8 The examination shall cover, as a minimum, physical and dental assessment, laboratory
9 diagnostics, routine immunizations, and disease screenings, as specified in a guideline to be issued by
10 the DOH. The full results of the examination shall be recorded in the individual's Health Passport.

11 The cost of the annual check-up package shall be chargeable to the budget of the DOH and
12 to PhilHealth's relevant benefit packages, with such amounts as may be necessary included in the
13 annual General Appropriations Act.

14 **SECTION 10. *Digitization of Public Health Facility Records.*** — In the pursuit of seamless
15 and efficient health care service, all public health facilities nationwide, with priority for Rural Health
16 Units, are directed to digitize all medical records and evaluation results. This is to create a shareable
17 database to consolidate all information that will be easily accessible in times of need.

18 **SECTION 11. *Senior Citizens' Privileges.*** - All privileges granted to senior citizens under
19 the Senior Citizens' Act and other laws shall also apply to senior citizens with health passports. Medical
20 institutions shall give priority to senior citizens.

21 **SECTION 12. *Rural Health Units Assessment Report.*** - DOH shall submit an initial
22 assessment report to the House of Representatives and the Senate on the status of every Rural Health
23 Unit (RHU) within ninety (90) days of the effectivity of this Act to identify which RHUs do not meet
24 the universal standards for quality primary healthcare.

25 **SECTION 13. *Roadmap for the Improvement of Rural Health Units.*** - Based on the Rural
26 Health Units Assessment Report, as mandated by the preceding section, the DOH shall likewise

1 prepare a comprehensive roadmap elaborating the recommended steps to improve the quality of
2 primary healthcare.

3 Annually thereafter, an update report pertaining to the progress of the RHUs shall be
4 submitted to the House of Representatives and the Senate for purposes of monitoring and evaluation.

5 **SECTION 14. *Implementing Agency.*** - The DOH, in consultation with the PSA, PhilHealth,
6 and DICT, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the
7 provisions of this Act, and administer this program in coordination with the local government units
8 concerned and other agencies whose functions are bound to affect the implementation of this system.

9 In this connection, the DOH is hereby mandated to conduct further study on this system. The
10 Department shall also assess the capabilities of the health institutions in the local government units as
11 well as the availability of laboratory apparatuses to put into service the provisions of this Act.

12 **SECTION 15. *Appropriation.*** - The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this
13 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

14 **SECTION 16. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act shall be held invalid
15 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain
16 valid and subsisting.

17 **SECTION 17. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portions thereof,
18 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

19 **SECTION 18. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the
20 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
21 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

22 *Approved,*