

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8368

**Introduced by AKBAYAN Representatives PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA,
JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO, and DADAH KIRAM ISMULA and
Dinagat Islands Representative KAKA BAG-AO**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The vision of this proposed legislation comes from Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution which seeks to make essential goods and services available and affordable to Filipinos. This state guarantee finds relevance in healthcare especially in providing treatment for marginalized sectors, such as senior citizens. With heart diseases, high blood pressure, and diabetes, chronic kidney disease (CKD) becomes prevalent within the elderly population. In 2017, it resulted in 1.2 million deaths.

This should not have been the case. CKD is largely preventable and treatable through dialysis procedures such as hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. However, in countries where the right to health comes with a cost, such as the Philippines, universal healthcare is still limited for CKD.

Per Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) Circular No. 22-2015, only 90 out of 144 dialysis sessions needed in a year of treatment are being subsidized. With

a case rate of Php 2,500.00 per session of dialysis, lifesaving treatment for the remaining 54 sessions costs Php 135,000.00. Senior citizens are vulnerable to CKD and most of them only rely on their measly monthly pension.

In order to honor our elderly and give them essential goods and services pursuant to their right to health, this bill seeks to provide free hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health (DOH) approved dialysis procedures to senior citizens.

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



PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA
Akbayan Representative



JOSE MANUEL TADEO
"CHEL" I. DIOKNO
Akbayan Representative



DADAN KIRAM ISMULA
Akbayan Representative



KAKA BAG-AO
Dinagat Islands Representative

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

*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 Dialysis for
2 Senior Citizens Act."

3
4 **Sec. 2.** *Free Dialysis for All Senior Citizens.* – The cost of all the needed
5 hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and other Department of Health ("DOH") approved
6 dialysis procedure shall be fully reimbursed by the Philippines Health Insurance
7 Corporation (PHIC), provided such treatment is availed of at PHIC accredited hospitals
8 or free-standing dialysis centers. Provided further, that only those procedures that use
9 the dialysis solutions included in the latest edition of the Philippine National Drug
10 Formulary ("PNDF") shall be reimbursed by the Philhealth. Provided finally, that only
11 laboratory procedures and supplies considered necessary shall be covered by the
12 Philhealth. Philhealth shall, as soon as possible, reimburse all official receipts for drugs,
13 supplies, and laboratory procedures dated thirty (30) days prior to the date of the
14 claimed session.

1
2 **Sec. 3. Appropriations.** – The amount needed for the implementation of this
3 Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH and the PHIC in the current
4 and subsequent General Appropriations Act and their own respective funds.
5 Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be
6 included In the budget of the concerned departments In the annual General
7 Appropriations.

8
9 **Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30) days from
10 the approval of this Act, the DOH, the PHIC, and the National Commission on Senior
11 Citizens (NCSC), in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall formulate
12 rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and
13 enforcement of this Act.

14
15 **Sec. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act or the application
16 thereof to any person or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other
17 provisions or sections of this Act and the application of such provision or section to
18 other persons or circumstances, not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
19 and effect.

20
21 **Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances,
22 executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulations
23 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified
24 or amended accordingly.

25
26 **Sec. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,