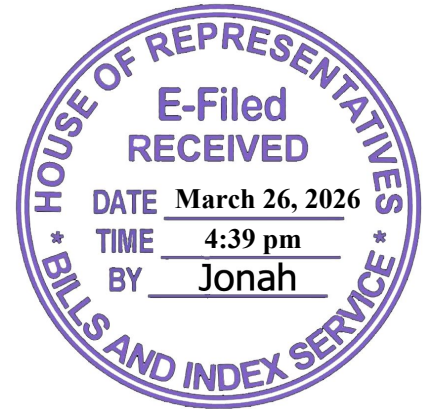


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8799



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize the provision of a health maintenance organization (HMO) to all public school teachers under the Department of Education (DepEd). It ensures that teachers are afforded adequate health protection by granting them access to essential healthcare services and maintain their overall well-being. This promotes their overall well-being and enables them to perform their duties with competence and dignity.

Public school teachers perform a critical role in nation-building as they shape the intellectual capacity and values of the youth. The demands of their profession require not only subject matter expertise, but also sustained physical and mental fitness. However, the nature of their work, which oftentimes involves long hours, heavy workloads, and administrative responsibilities, exposes them to various health risks that necessitate accessible and reliable healthcare support.

Despite the enactment of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the "*Universal Health Care Act*", many public school teachers continue to bear out-of-pocket healthcare expenses that further strain their limited financial sources. This affects not only their personal well-being but also their capacity to perform their functions at an optimal level.

The provision of HMO coverage to our educators is a strategic and necessary investment in the country's education system, affirming the State's commitment to protecting the welfare of educators. A healthy teaching workforce leads to improved productivity, reduced absenteeism, and better learning outcomes for the future of the nation.

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


HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8799

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Health Maintenance Organization for Public School Teachers Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of public sector employees in nation building. As an important component of the public sector, the State shall ensure that public school teachers have access to comprehensive, quality, cost-effective, preventive, and rehabilitative health services.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all public teachers under the Department of Education (DepEd).

SEC. 4. *Selection of Health Maintenance Organization.* – The DepEd shall, in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, as amended, procure a contract with a Health Maintenance Organization that shall be able to provide healthcare services to its employees.

For the purposes of this Act, a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) refers to a health insurance organization which provides health insurance coverage for a monthly or annual fee charged to one’s employer and covers the fundamental services needed by individuals to maintain their health and well-being such as in-patient and out-patient care, basic surgeries, and other ancillary services like laboratory testing and medication.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following its approval.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education, together with the Department of Health, shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days from its approval.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,