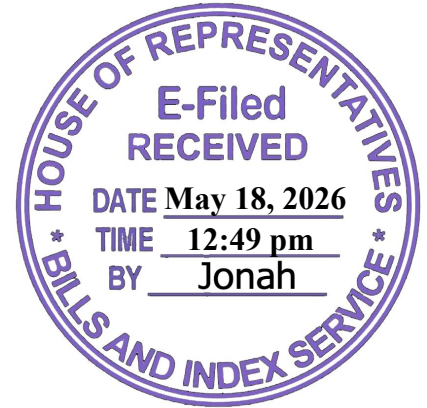


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9283**



Introduced by **Rep. BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution states that the "State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost." Republic Act 11223 or the Universal Healthcare Act's objectives are to (a) Progressively realize universal health care in the country through a systemic approach and clear delineation of roles of key agencies and stakeholders towards better performance in the health system; and (b) Ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services, and protected against financial risk.

The Philippines has been a leading country in recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities with laws such as Presidential Decree No. 603 (Child and Youth Welfare Code), Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act), and Republic Act No. 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Persons) and has also ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 alongside regional commitments, including the Incheon Strategy "to Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. Yet, despite these legal safeguards, health services remain fragmented, underfunded, and inaccessible to many families.

This proposed measure aims to provide equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare, specifically, rehabilitative care to individuals with disabling conditions such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, and cerebral palsy, as well as musculoskeletal issues and other physical, cognitive, and communicative conditions as well as children with special needs who face developmental challenges such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and Down's Syndrome by enhancing the capacity and capability of regional hospitals to provide rehabilitative medicine services

Thus, passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA

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AN ACT
UPGRADING THE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY OF DOH REGIONAL HOSPITALS TO
PROVIDE REHABILITATIVE SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short title. -This Act shall be known as the "Rehabilitative Medicine Program Act"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall make health services available, accessible and affordable for all. To this end, reforms shall be introduced to the Philippine health delivery system to achieve universal health care for Filipinos through capacity and capability building that shall enable regional government hospitals to provide rehabilitative services.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. -As used in this Act:

- (a) Regional government hospital - refers to a hospital operated and maintained, either partially or wholly, by the national government or by any department, division, board or other agency thereof; and
- (b) Rehabilitative care facility - refers to a hospital facility that provides a specialized medical care with the aim of enhancing functional ability and quality of life for individuals with physical impairments, injuries, or disabilities by providing therapeutic services—including physical, occupational, and speech therapies—to treat musculoskeletal, neurological, and pain conditions without surgery.

SEC. 4. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to regional hospitals whose service capacities are as general hospitals with at least five hundred (500) beds, and have been identified by the Department of Health (DOH) to have the potential to fully operate a rehabilitative care facility.

SEC. 5. Rehabilitative Medicine Program. - Within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act, all the DOH regional hospitals described in Section 4 shall be upgraded or shall have established functional rehabilitative care facilities. Each facility shall be able to provide the following rehabilitative services:

1. Musculoskeletal & Pain: Arthritis, back/neck pain, sports injuries.
2. Neurological: Stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's.
3. Post-operative recovery: Cancer rehabilitation, amputation, or recovery from severe illness.
4. Therapeutic Approaches:
 - a. Physical Therapy: Improving mobility, strength, and balance.
 - b. Occupational Therapy: Assisting with daily tasks like eating or dressing.
 - c. Speech Therapy: Addressing swallowing and language issues.
5. Interventional Procedures: Using ultrasound or electromyography (EMG) for diagnosis, and joint/nerve injections for pain

SEC. 6. PHILHEALTH coverage. PHILHEALTH shall provide coverage for rehabilitative care services as provided in Section 5.

SEC. 7. Inventory and Audit of Hospitals. - An inventory and audit of the physical facilities, equipment and instruments, as well as the personnel of the regional hospitals, shall be conducted within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, to determine the present classification of the respective regional hospitals based on their functional capacity. The result of the inventory and audit shall be the basis for the establishment or upgrading of rehabilitative care facility for each regional government hospital and shall be prioritized in areas where they are most needed.

SEC. 8. Annual Report. - Two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act and every year thereafter, the DOH shall submit an annual report on the status of the Rehabilitative Medicine Program to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health and Demography of the Philippine Senate.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. - The initial amount for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DOH. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. -The Secretary of the DOH shall issue the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,