

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9587**



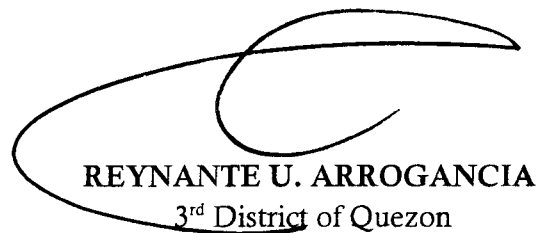
Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ensuring comprehensive medical benefits for public school teachers and non-teaching personnel is fundamental to sustaining a stable, highly effective, and resilient educational infrastructure.

This measure seeks to provide for hospital and healthcare benefits for public school teachers, non-teaching personnel and their dependents. It aims to establish health centers for teachers and non-teaching personnel, automatic coverage by PhilHealth and increase in health benefits coverage by 20%, including their dependents. It also aims to establish subsidies on the hospitalization and medical procedures in private health facilities.

Providing strong medical benefits fosters a supportive work environment. Several versions of this measure have been filed in the preceding Congresses, and it is hoped that in the current Congress it will finally be passed into a law.



REYNANTE U. ARROGANCIA
3rd District of Quezon

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS, NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL AND THEIR
DEPENDENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the “Hospital and Healthcare
2 Benefits for Public School Teachers, Non-Teaching Personnel and their Dependents Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and
5 comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential
6 health and other social services available to all people. The State further recognizes the
7 role of Filipino teachers in the delivery of education services as a public and common
8 good. Towards this end, the State shall fulfill the right to health and promote the well-
9 being of Filipino teachers, non-teaching personnel and their dependents through the
10 provision of available, accessible, and affordable medical and healthcare services.
11

12 **SEC. 3. *Coverage.*** – This Act shall apply to all public elementary and secondary school
13 teachers and non-teaching personnel, regardless of length of service and status of
14 employment, and their declared dependents.
15

16 **SEC. 4. *Specialty Centers and Hospital Wards.*** – The Department of Health (DOH) is
17 mandated to establish teachers’ and non-teaching personnel’s health centers and to
18 designate special wards for the aforementioned in all of its retained hospitals and specialty
19 centers. *Provided,* That no fees or expenses shall be charged or paid by the teachers, non-
20 teaching personnel and their qualified dependents in public health facilities.
21

22 **SEC. 5. *PHILHEALTH Plus.*** – All public school teachers and non-teaching personnel,
23 regardless of their length of service and status of employment, shall be automatically
24 covered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH). The premium

contributions of public-school teachers and the non-teaching personnel shall be paid by the national government. *Provided*, That PHILHEALTH is mandated to increase the health benefits coverage of teachers, non-teaching personnel and their dependents to at least twenty percent (20%).

SEC. 6. *Medical Assistance Program.* – The DOH, DSWD, and the DepEd shall establish, harmonize, and strengthen its medical assistance program for teachers and non-teaching personnel to include, but not limited to, subsidies on the hospitalization and medical procedures for teachers and their qualified dependents in private health facilities.

SEC. 7. *Medical and Health Discounts.* – All teachers and non-teaching personnel shall be entitled to a ten percent (10%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the purchase of medicines and other essential medical and health products.

SEC. 8. *Mental Health and Wellness Leave.* – All teachers and non-teaching personnel shall be entitled to a mental health and wellness leave of not more than five (5) working days per year. The mental health and wellness leave shall be in addition to the regular vacation and sick leave entitlements provided under existing laws.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with concerned national government agencies, teachers' unions, and organizations, shall promulgate within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act the necessary rules and regulations for its effective and immediate implementation.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be provided in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Tax Exemptions.* – All donations, contributions, bequests, subsidies, or financial aids received by government agencies for the implementation of this Act shall be exempt from payment of taxes under the National Internal Revenue Code and the Local Government Code.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,