

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9676**



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Electronic health records (EHR) are essentially a consolidation of a patient's entire health history and information, including inpatient hospitalization records, outpatient clinic visits, laboratory results, imaging reports, and records of medication prescribed and dispensed. The EHR system makes it possible to provide better overall care for the patient and improved quality of documentation and administrative efficiency. A national HER system can allow full interoperability and a seamless transmission of patients' health information across different healthcare settings, including enhanced clinical decision-making abilities and cost-effectiveness.

A National Electronic Health Record System can be another cornerstone of our Universal Health Care law. Creating it within the Philhealth system will not only help Philhealth keep track of each patient's medical journey, but also ensure that medical insurance claims under the UHC law is not abused.

It is high time that the Philippines follow this global practice which will serve to boost our medical system and will ultimately redound to the benefit of our citizenry.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Beverley Rose A. Dimacuha", written over the printed name.

BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9676

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

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM TO
ENSURE CONTINUITY OF CARE, IMPROVE MEDICAL EFFICIENCY, AND
PROMOTE UNIVERSAL HEALTH ACCESS FOR ALL FILIPINOS

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "National Electronic Health Record System Act"

SECTION 2. It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of every Filipino. To this end, the government shall institutionalize a secure, interoperable, and universally accessible National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) that ensures efficient, seamless, and continuous healthcare services nationwide.

SECTION 3. This Act seeks to:

- a. Create a National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) for all citizens;
- b. Assign every Filipino a unique digital health ID linked to their medical history;
- c. Facilitate data sharing among authorized healthcare providers;
- d. Enhance healthcare delivery, reduce redundancy, and save lives during emergencies;
- e. Support public health monitoring, disease surveillance, and national health planning.

SECTION 4. The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall develop and implement the NEHRS.

The system shall include:

- a. Individual patient profiles including medical history, lab results, prescriptions, allergies, and immunizations;
- b. Access protocols for public and private health facilities, governed by data privacy and patient consent;
- c. Offline access mechanisms for rural and underserved areas;
- d. Integration with PhilHealth's Universal Health Care databases, and local government unit (LGU) health systems.

SECTION 5. Every Filipino shall be assigned a Digital Health ID, which shall be:

- a. Linked to their Philhealth ID number;
- b. Usable across all public hospitals, RHUs, and licensed private facilities;
- c. Securely stored with biometric or multi-factor authentication features for access.

SECTION 6. The following shall be required to adopt the NEHRS within two (2) years:

- a. All DOH-retained hospitals and provincial hospitals;
- b. All public rural health units (RHUs), barangay health stations, and city health offices;
- c. All state universities and colleges (SUCs) offering medical and health courses;
- d. Private hospitals and clinics may participate voluntarily within the first year and shall be mandated to adopt the system by the third year, with incentives provided for early adoption.

SECTION 7. Strict compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173) shall be enforced.

- a. Patients must provide informed consent for access to their records.
- b. All data shall be encrypted and stored in secure, government-certified cloud or on-site systems.
- c. Penalties shall be imposed for unauthorized access, misuse, or data breaches.

•

SECTION 8. The necessary funds for the creation, operation, maintenance, upgrades, and capacity building of the National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) shall be appropriated annually under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 9. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DICT, Philhealth, and the National Privacy Commission, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SECTION 10. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,