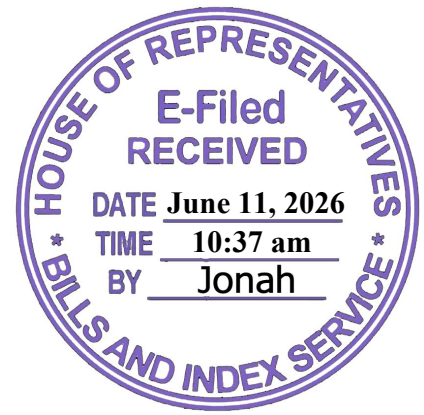


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9854



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The right to health is a fundamental constitutional guarantee. Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution explicitly declares that the State shall protect and promote the people's right to health and instill health consciousness among them. This mandate was significantly advanced with the enactment of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, which aims to realize universal health coverage for all Filipinos progressively.

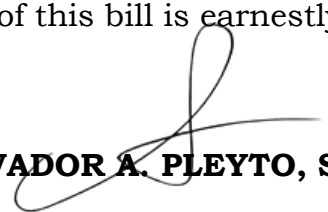
The UHC Act's full implementation is hindered by a fragmented health information infrastructure. Patient records are often filed in various hospitals and health units, forcing patients to carry physical copies of their medical history. In emergencies, the lack of immediate access to this information can result in diagnostic errors, delayed treatment, and preventable complications.

Furthermore, the absence of a unified system results in redundant medical tests, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and a lack of real-time, accurate public health data necessary for proactive government epidemiologic interventions. This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing the National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS).

The NEHRS will serve as a secure, centralized, and interoperable digital platform that aggregates a patient's medical history across all healthcare providers nationwide.

The modernization of our healthcare system through digital integration is no longer a luxury; it is an urgent public health necessity.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9854

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the This Act shall be known as the "National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos. Towards this end, the State shall adopt a digital-first approach to healthcare administration by establishing a unified, secure, and interoperable National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS) to streamline health services, optimize clinical outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and guarantee the seamless continuity of patient care nationwide.

Sec. 3. Objectives – This Act aims to achieve the following:

- (a) Establish a single, secure electronic registry for the health records of all Philippine citizens;
- (b) Mandate interoperability standards among all public and private healthcare facilities;
- (c) Protect patient data privacy while allowing seamless, authorized clinical data sharing; and
- (d) Provide real-time, aggregated data to health authorities for public health monitoring and syndromic surveillance.

Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms* - As used in this Act:

- (a) Electronic Health Record (EHR) refers to a digital version of a patient's medical history, maintained by the provider over time, including clinical data, progress notes, problems, medications, vital signs, past medical history, immunizations, laboratory data, and radiology reports.
- (b) Interoperability refers to the ability of different information systems, devices, and software applications to access, exchange, integrate, and cooperatively use data in a coordinated manner.
- (c) Healthcare Provider refers to any health facility, hospital, clinic, rural health unit (RHU), barangay health station, sanitarium, or healthcare professional licensed to provide medical services.

Sec. 5. *Creation of the National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS)*. – There is hereby established a National Electronic Health Record System (NEHRS), which shall serve as the primary centralized digital infrastructure for managing patient health information in the Philippines.

The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), shall design, implement, maintain, and oversee the NEHRS architecture.

Sec. 6. *Mandatory Participation and Interoperability*. - All public and private healthcare providers operating within the Philippines shall implement electronic medical record systems that are fully compatible and interoperable with the NEHRS platform.

- (a) All government-owned hospitals, rural health units (RHUs), and primary care facilities shall be migrated to the NEHRS within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.
- (b) Private healthcare providers shall fully integrate their systems with the NEHRS within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act.

Compliance with the NEHRS integration shall be a mandatory prerequisite for the renewal of Department of Health (DOH) facility licenses and PhilHealth accreditations.

Sec. 7. *Data Privacy and Security Guarantees*.— The NEHRS shall strictly comply with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the "Data Privacy Act of 2012."

- **Patient Ownership:** Patients shall own their electronic health records. Their explicit consent shall be required for the sharing of records, except in life-threatening emergencies where consent cannot be practically obtained.
- **Access Control:** Only licensed and authorized healthcare practitioners directly involved in the patient's care shall have access to specific clinical records.
- **Cybersecurity Standard:** The DICT and DOH shall employ state-of-the-art encryption protocols, multi-factor authentication, and blockchain or equivalent immutable ledger systems to prevent unauthorized data breaches.

Sec. 8. *Public Health Surveillance and Anonymization.* - The DOH shall utilize aggregated, fully anonymized data from the NEHRS for public health planning, epidemiological research, and emergency response management. Under no circumstances shall personally identifiable information (PII) be released for research or statistical purposes without explicit patient consent.

Sec. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to cover the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOH and DICT. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued operation and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA)

Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in joint consultation with the DICT, PhilHealth, the National Privacy Commission (NPC), and relevant stakeholders from the public and private medical sectors, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with 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 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,