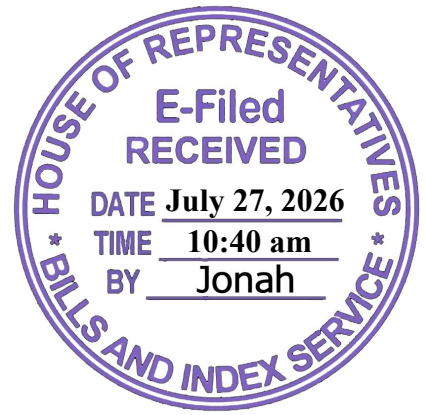


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10233**



Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many Filipinos delay or forego medical consultations and diagnostic examinations due to the cost of healthcare services. This often results in the late detection of illnesses, higher medical expenses, and increased risk of complications that could have been prevented through regular check-ups and timely medical intervention.

Preventive healthcare is essential in building a healthier nation. Regular medical check-ups allow early identification of health risks, promote healthier lifestyles, and enable appropriate treatment before illnesses progress into more serious conditions. Strengthening preventive health services will not only improve individual health outcomes but also reduce the long-term burden on families and the country's healthcare system. More importantly, early detection and proper medical intervention can help save lives by identifying serious health conditions at a stage when treatment is more effective and recovery is more attainable.

Therefore, this bill seeks to institutionalize the Libreng Check-Up Program by providing every Filipino with access to a free annual medical check-up through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The program shall cover general physical examinations and basic laboratory and diagnostic tests through accredited healthcare providers and institutions, consistent with existing health programs and subject to expansion based on the health needs of Filipinos.

Fundamentally, this bill aims to promote preventive healthcare, encourage early detection of diseases, and ensure equitable access to essential health services so that every Filipino may receive timely care before medical conditions become severe or life-threatening

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


ATTY. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.

Representative

Second District, Province of Sorsogon

Twentieth Congress of the
Republic of the Philippines
Second Regular Session

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. **10233**

Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.**

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR FILIPINOS

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

SEC. 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Libreng Check-Up Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes its duty to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Pursuant to its duty, the State shall provide the services needed to ensure the health and wellness of every Filipino.

Aside from enhancing programs that focus on curative medicine, there should be emphasis on improving the country’s health care system in terms of preventive interventions and strengthening the health-seeking behavior of citizens.

In line with this, Filipinos shall be entitled to an annual medical check-up, through the programs of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), which is free of charge in any government hospital or institution.

SEC. 3. *Population Coverage.* – Every Filipino citizen shall be covered by the free annual medical check-up under this Act, pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the “Universal Health Care Act.”

SEC. 4. *Medical Check-Up Coverage.* – PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall establish a program to provide Filipinos with a free annual medical check-up, which shall include, but not be limited to, a general physical examination and the following basic laboratory and diagnostic tests:

- a. Blood tests (such as complete blood count, fasting blood sugar, lipid profile);
- b. Urine and stool examinations;
- c. Chest x-ray and other imaging procedures;
- d. Electrocardiogram (ECG);
- e. Cancer screening tests based on age and risk factors (such as Pap smear, PSA test);

- f. Other screening or diagnostic procedures as may be necessary based on the patient's medical evaluation.

Provided, That prior to the availment of any laboratory and/or diagnostic examinations, the patient must first be screened by a PhilHealth-accredited primary care provider, as stated under Section 6(d) of R.A. No. 11223, to evaluate and determine the appropriate examinations to be administered:

Provided, further, That such examinations shall be conducted through PhilHealth-accredited health care institutions (HCIs):

Provided, furthermore, That the coverage of laboratory and/or diagnostic examinations may be expanded, subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds and based on the current and emerging health needs of Filipinos:

Provided, finally, That this program may be implemented and harmonized with existing and future programs of PhilHealth, including but not limited to the Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta) package, without prejudice to the development or expansion of other programs aligned with this Act.

SEC. 5. *Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up*. – The duration of availing the free medical check-up shall be for the whole calendar year. PhilHealth shall establish a system to secure that every Filipino will be accommodated and get the services that they are entitled to.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – PhilHealth shall be primarily responsible for the implementation of this Act. Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, PhilHealth, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the total revenue of PhilHealth, composed of premium contributions from direct contributors and premium subsidies of the government for the indirect contributors, of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause*. – All other laws, decrees, orders, other issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,