



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

20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10400**



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 35 OF RA 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995", AS AMENDED, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE TO LENGTHEN THE PERIOD OF FILING OF REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS WITH THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 35 of Republic Act No. 7875, otherwise known as the "National Health Insurance Act of 1995", as amended, provides that the period of filing of reimbursement claims with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall be within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of discharge of the patient from the health care provider.

In practice, and as per record and experience, sixty (60) days has been observed as too rigid a deadline; and many health care providers believe it needs room for improvement, given that a significant number of valid claims were returned and denied, causing undue financial strain on health facilities.

This bill therefore seeks to amend Sec. 35 of RA 7875 to lengthen the period of filing of reimbursement claims with PhilHealth to one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days from the date of discharge of patients.

This amendment, when enacted, will address the issue of the need for a longer filing period in the light of established jurisprudence contained in the Supreme Court's decision in G.R. No. 163123 (PhilHealth vs Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center), where strict procedural rules should not undermine the core objective of the National Health Insurance Program which is to ensure financial access to essential health services for all Filipinos.

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

SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Lone District, Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City



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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 "Extending the PhilHealth Claims Filing Period Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Principle. – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost.

SEC. 3. Amendment to Section 35 of RA7875, as amended. – Section 35 of Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 35. Reimbursement and Period to File Claims. – All claims for reimbursement or payment for services rendered shall be filed within a period of **ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY (120) [sixty (60)]** calendar days from the date of discharge of the patient from the health care provider.

The period to file the claim may be extended for such reasonable causes determined by the Corporation."

SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – PhilHealth shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act not later than thirty (30) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SEC. 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.