

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



23 JAN 23 P 3 :40

SENATE
S. No. 1733

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Health is of paramount importance. Good health is a key element to live a longer and more active life.

In 2021, it was recorded that 23.7% of Filipinos lived below the poverty line.¹ Millions of Filipinos were prevented to obtain healthcare services that they need because of poverty. It was also reported that the top five causes of death in the country from January to December 2021 were ischaemic heart diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, COVID-19 virus, neoplasms, and diabetes mellitus.² The number of deaths substantially increased from 2020 to 2021. This situation requires necessary measures to address such alarming case.

Thus, this bill seeks to provide Free-Annual Medical Check-Up to Filipino citizens. By virtue of their membership in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Filipinos shall be entitled to avail check-up from accredited hospitals, including blood sugar and cholesterol tests. Also, this bill seeks to expand the laboratory and diagnostic tests. PhilHealth shall also establish a system that allows access to a free annual medical check-up and ensure that Filipinos shall be accorded quality health care services that they deserve.

¹ Van (2022) Philippines: Poverty, Asian Development Bank. Asian Development Bank. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/countries/philippines/poverty> (Accessed: October 27, 2022).

² (2022) Philippine Statistics Authority. Available at: <https://psa.gov.ph/content/causes-deaths-philippines-preliminary-january-december-2021> (Accessed: October 27, 2022).

These are all consistent with Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution which provides that, "the state shall protect the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.", and with Republic Act No. 112233, or the "Universal Health Care Act", which was enacted to ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services and protected against financial risk.

Thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARK A. VILLAR

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Free Annual Medical*
2 *Check-Up Act of 2023.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to support and
4 promote the right to health by enhancing programs which focus on preventive and
5 curative medicine that advance the health and well-being of Filipinos and prevent
6 disease, disability, and death. Pursuant thereto, Filipinos shall be entitled to an annual
7 medical check-up that is free of charge in any government hospital and institution.

8 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – All Filipino Citizens, by virtue of their membership in the
9 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) mandated under Republic Act No.
10 11223, or the "Universal Health Care Law", shall be entitled to the applicable benefits
11 under the Philippine Health Insurance Program.

12 Members shall be entitled to a free annual medical check-up that shall include
13 blood sugar and cholesterol tests. Laboratory and diagnostic tests shall be expanded,
14 subject to the availability of PhilHealth funds.

15 Sec. 4. *Schedule of Free Medical Check-Up.* – To promote health, identify risks,
16 and ensure early diagnosis, PhilHealth shall establish a system that allows access to

1 free annual medical check-up and ensure that Filipinos shall be accorded quality health
2 care services that they deserve.

3 Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be
4 charged against PhilHealth funds.

5 Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The Department of Health
6 shall, in coordination with PhilHealth, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
7 for the proper implementation of this Act not later than ninety (90) days from its
8 effectivity.

9 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
10 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full
11 force and effect.

12 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and
13 regulations, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

14 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
15 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,