

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



23 JAN 30 AIO 52

SENATE

S. No. 1791

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides that it is the duty 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 the people at affordable cost."

Republic Act No. 11223, or otherwise known as the "*Universal Health Care (UHC) Act*", is an important legislation ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare services; however, it has also subjected the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) or migrant workers, as direct contributors to National Health Insurance Program, to pay premium contributions at specified rates. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the ability to earn for most Filipinos; hence, this requires the government agencies to implement urgent and necessary measures to aid the conditions and alleviate their suffering and be responsive to the needs of the times.

This measure aims to amend Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223 to: such that the premium contribution schedule of the migrant workers and self-earning individuals shall now be based on the income floor. Relatedly, the migrant workers will not be charged for their unpaid contributions upon return to the country and such

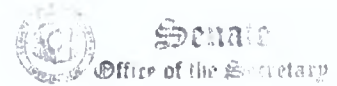
failure to pay will not be used against them as grounds for non-issuance of their overseas employment certificate.

The measure also authorizes the President to suspend or defer the contribution schedule stated in the same section in the event of a nationally declared state of emergency or calamity.

In view of providing flexibility to the people during times of great crisis, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.


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



23 JAN 30 A10 :52

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S. No. 1791

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT"

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

1 Section 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 SEC. 10. Premium Contributions. - For direct contributors, premium rates shall
4 be in accordance with the following schedule, and monthly income floor and
5 ceiling:

Year	Premium Rate	Income Floor	Income Ceiling
2019	2.75%	P10,000.00	P50,000.00
2020	3.00%	P10,000.00	P60,000.00
2021	3.50%	P10,000.00	P70,000.00
2022	4.00%	P10,000.00	P80,000.00
2023	[4.50%] 3.5%	P10,000.00	P90,000.00
2024	[5.00%] 4.0 %	P10,000.00	P100,000.00
2025	[5.00%] 4.5%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00
2026	5.00%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00

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1 **PROVIDED, THAT PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIGRANT**
2 **WORKERS AND SELF-EARNING INDIVIDUALS SHALL BE BASED ON**
3 **THE INCOME FLOOR: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT UNPAID PREMIUM**
4 **CONTRIBUTIONS OF DISTRESSED OR REPATRIATED MIGRANT**
5 **WORKERS SHALL NOT BE COLLECTED UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE**
6 **COUNTRY: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT FAILURE TO PAY PHILHEALTH**
7 **CONTRIBUTION SHALL NOT BE A GROUND FOR NON-ISSUANCE OF**
8 **OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATE OF A MIGRANT WORKER.**

9 ~~[Provided, That f]~~For indirect contributors, premium subsidy shall be
10 gradually adjusted and included annually in the General Appropriations Act
11 (GAA): *Provided, [further,]* That the funds shall be released to Philhealth:
12 *Provided, further [more]:* That the DOH, in coordination with PhilHealth, may
13 request Congress to appropriate supplemental funding to meet targeted
14 milestones of this Act: *Provided, finally,* That for every increase in the rate of
15 contribution of direct contributors and premium subsidy of indirect contributors,
16 Philhealth shall provide for a corresponding increase in benefits.

17 **IN THE EVENT OF A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR**
18 **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, OR STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY,**
19 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF**
20 **THE PHILHEALTH BOARD AFTER CONSULTATION WITH**
21 **STAKEHOLDERS, MAY SUSPEND THE INCREASE IN PREMIUM**
22 **CONTRIBUTION RATES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION. THE**
23 **MANDATED INCREASE SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED UPON THE LIFTING**
24 **OF THE STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR PUBLIC HEALTH**
25 **EMERGENCY, OR STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY. IN THE EVENT OF**
26 **SUSPENSION, ALL SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULED INCREASES IN**
27 **CONTRIBUTION RATES SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE**
28 **SUCCEEDING YEARS ACCORDINGLY."**

29 *Sec. 2. Non Diminution and Continuity of Benefits.* - Nothing in this Act shall be
30 construed to eliminate or diminish any benefits or entitlements already granted to
31 members of PhilHealth.

1 *Sec. 3. Separability Clause.* - If for any reason any part or provision of this Act
2 shall be deemed invalid or unconstitutional, the other sections or provisions hereof
3 shall not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

4 *Sec. 4. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and
5 other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
6 amended or modified accordingly.

7 *Sec. 5. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation
9 in the Philippines.

Approved,