

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



23 FEB 22 P 6:50

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1921

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR HOSPITAL BENEFITS AND OTHER PRIVILEGES
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Explanatory Note

Teachers hold one of the most vital jobs in the country which is fostering the curiosity of the youth, while also molding them to be responsible and informed citizens. They are the Philippines' unsung heroes that are essentially one of the most integral resources that the country can provide its students. There is a dire need to provide teachers with additional benefits, especially in the health sector as they are exposed to a multitude of health risks like pharyngitis, hypertension, anemia, hyperacidity, and many more.

With that being said, this proposed measure seeks to provide health benefits to teachers and their dependents in all government hospitals. Furthermore, this bill seeks to provide hospital beds and fast lane facilities for teachers and their dependents; this shall be done in order for them to be assured easy access to all their hospitalization needs. Lastly, this provision also accounts for special discounts and an increase in health insurance coverage in order to further lessen the burden of paying expensive hospital bills.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



Raffy T. Tulfo

Senator

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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 “Public School Teachers’
2 Hospital Benefits Act of 2023”.

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated
5 and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make
6 essential health and other social services available to all people at affordable costs.
7 Towards this end, the State shall protect the interests and promote the well-being of
8 Filipino public school teachers and their dependents through the provision of medical
9 services.

10
11 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms
12 shall be defined as follows:

13 (a) *Public School Teacher* refers to a person who is registered at the
14 Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and is engaged in classroom
15 teaching in all schools operated by the government, with the exception
16 of professorial staff of state colleges and universities;

17
18 (b) *Dependent* refers to:

19 i. Legitimate spouse;

- 1 ii. Legitimate, illegitimate or legally adopted children, chiefly dependent
2 upon and living with the teacher if such child is not more than eighteen
3 (18) years of age, unmarried and not gainfully employed or is over the
4 age of majority but incapacitated and incapable of self-support due to a
5 mental or physical defect; and
6 iii. The teachers' parents who are dependent upon the teacher for
7 support.

8
9 Sec. 4. *Mandate.* – To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of
10 medical benefits, all government hospitals are hereby mandated to:

- 11 (a) Provide for health care services to all teachers and their legal
12 dependents which shall include preventive, promotive, diagnostic,
13 curative and rehabilitative programs;
14 (b) Conduct medical and other relevant diagnostic examination to ensure
15 the physical and mental capability of all teacher applicants; and
16 (c) Set-up a system that will effectively monitor the health condition of
17 teachers and their dependents.

18
19 Sec. 5. *Benefits and Privileges.* – To carry out the purposes of this Act, all
20 government hospitals shall:

- 21 (a) Grant at least ten percent (10%) discount on consultations and other
22 hospital needs for teachers and their dependents; and
23 (b) Provide fast-lane facilities to serve teachers and their dependents.

24
25 Sec 6. *Requirements for Availing Hospital Benefits.* – Public School Teachers
26 must bring their Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Identification Card and
27 valid proof of employment in a public school (like ID). Furthermore, if their dependents
28 wish to avail of this benefit, they must also be accompanied by the teacher and must
29 bring one (1) government ID or Birth Certificate.

1 *Sec. 7. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.* – The Philippine Health
2 Insurance Corporation is hereby mandated to increase by ten percent (10%) the
3 health care coverage of teachers and their dependents for medical expenses.

4
5 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulation* – Within sixty (60) days from the
6 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall formulate the rules and regulations
7 necessary or the effective implementation of this Act.

8
9 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
10 unconstitutional or invalid, such sections or parts not affected thereby shall remain in
11 full force and effect.

12
13 *Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
14 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
15 repealed or modified accordingly.

16
17 *Sec 11. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
18 from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers
19 of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,