

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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25 FEB -4 27:07

SENATE

S. No. 2983

RECEIVED



Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ISSUANCE OF PHILIPPINE HEALTH CARD TO ALL
FILIPINOS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall 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." In line with this, Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, ensures that every Filipino citizen is automatically included in the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). Despite these provisions, challenges persist in providing all Filipinos with seamless access to healthcare services, particularly due to the absence of PhilHealth Identification Cards among many citizens.

As of the first semester of 2024, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) reported that all 112.89 million Filipinos were covered under the NHIP, setting the coverage rate at 100%. However, data indicates that by the end of 2023, only 96% of Filipinos were registered with PhilHealth, leaving approximately 4% of the population, or around 4.52 million individuals, unregistered. This discrepancy suggests that while all Filipinos are covered, not all have undergone formal registration nor possess identification cards.

To address this issue, this measure mandates the issuance of PhilHealth IDs to all Filipinos, ensuring that every Filipino can easily access the benefits provided under the National Health Insurance Program. This measure ensures that the country moves closer to achieving universal healthcare, where all Filipinos, regardless of their economic status or geographic location, are equipped to access essential health services efficiently and equitably.

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



SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO


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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Health Card Act*
2 *of 2025.*"

3
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – Article XIII, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution
5 provides that "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
6 development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social
7 services available to all the people at affordable cost." Republic Act No. 11223 or the
8 Universal Health Care (UHC) Law provides that every Filipino citizen shall be automatically
9 included into the National Health Insurance Program. Pursuant to the Constitutional
10 mandate and in line with the UHC Law, it is hereby declared a policy of the State to
11 provide citizens of the Philippines with a health card to serve as proof of their healthcare
12 coverage.

13
14 Sec. 3. *Philippine Health Card.* – The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
15 (PhilHealth) shall issue a health card to every member of the National Health Insurance

1 Program. The health card shall be provided for free and shall be valid anywhere in the
2 country. The health card shall be used for purposes of identification and utilization
3 recording under the National Health Insurance Program. The issuance of this ID card
4 shall be accompanied by a clear explanation to the member of his/her rights, privileges
5 and obligations as a member.

6
7 The issuance of the health card shall be in partnership with local government units.
8 The health card shall not include any partisan political features.

9
10 The absence of the ID card shall not prejudice the right of any member to avail of
11 benefits or medical services under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). The
12 health card shall not be necessary in the availing of PhilHealth benefits.

13
14 Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or
15 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

16
17 Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules
18 and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed
19 amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

20
21 Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
22 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,