



S E N A T E *

S. No. 2620

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES ON
HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY (UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF
ITS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS TO R.A. NO. 11223 OR
UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT); MIGRANT WORKERS; AND
FINANCE WITH SENATORS EJERCITO, POE, MARCOS, DELA
ROSA, ANGARA, REVILLA, JR., GO, TULFO, VILLANUEVA,
LEGARDA, HONTIVEROS, ZUBIRI, VILLAR (C), GATCHALIAN, AND
LAPID AS AUTHORS THEREOF

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 4 of Republic Act No. 11223 is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 “SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this

4 Act:

5 x x x

(i) *Essential health benefit package* refers to a set of individual-based entitlements covered by the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) which includes primary care; medicines, diagnostics and laboratory; and preventive, curative, ~~[and]~~ rehabilitative services; **AND DENTAL SERVICES;**

x x x

(V) *DEPENDENTS OF A MEMBER REFER TO: (1) THE LEGITIMATE SPOUSE WHO IS NOT A MEMBER; (2) THE UNMARRIED AND UNEMPLOYED LEGITIMATE, LEGITIMATED, ILLEGITIMATE, LEGALLY ADOPTED, OR STEPCHILDREN TWENTY-THREE (23) YEARS OF AGE AND BELOW.*

SEC. 2. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9. *Entitlement to Benefits.* – Every member shall be granted immediate eligibility for health benefit package under the Program:

Provided, That PhilHealth Identification Card shall not be required in the availment of any health service: *Provided, further*, That no co-payment shall be charged for services rendered in basic or ward accommodation: *Provided, furthermore*, That co-payments and co-insurance for amenities in public hospitals shall be regulated by the DOH and PhilHealth: **PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT THE PHILHEALTH BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INSURANCE COMMISSION, SHALL CONDUCT PERIODIC REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF BENEFIT PACKAGES NOT LATER THAN THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT AND EVERY THREE (3) YEARS THEREAFTER:** *Provided, finally*, That the current PhilHealth package for members shall not be reduced.

PhilHealth shall provide additional Program benefits for direct contributors, where applicable: *Provided*, That failure to pay premiums shall not prevent the enjoyment of any Program benefits: *Provided, further*, That employers [~~and self-employed direct contributors~~] shall be required to pay all missed contributions with an interest, compounded monthly, of at least three percent (3%) [~~for employers and not exceeding 1.5% for self-earning, professional practitioners, and migrant workers~~].”

SEC. 3. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. *Premium Contributions*. – For direct contributors, premium rates shall be in accordance with the following schedule, and monthly income floor and 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%	P10,000.00	P90,000.00
2024	5.00%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00
2025	5.00%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00

YEAR	PREMIUM RATE	INCOME FLOOR	INCOME CEILING
2024	5.00%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00
2025	3.25%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00
2026	3.50%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00
2027	3.75%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00
2028	4.00%	P10,000.00	P100,000.00

1 **FOR MIGRANT WORKERS, PREMIUM**
 2 **CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE BASED ON**
 3 **THE INCOME FLOOR: *PROVIDED*, THAT**
 4 **FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE PREMIUM**
 5 **CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS**
 6 **SHALL BE SHOULDERED BY THE**

1 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: *PROVIDED*,
2 *FURTHER*, THAT EMPLOYERS OF
3 SEAFARERS, THROUGH THE LOCAL
4 MANNING AGENCIES, SHALL CONTINUE
5 TO SHOULDER FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF
6 THE PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION OF THE
7 SEAFARERS: *PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE*,
8 THAT UNPAID PREMIUM
9 CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIGRANT WORKERS
10 IN DISTRESS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO.
11 8042, OR ‘THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND
12 OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995’, AS
13 AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022,
14 SHALL NOT BE COLLECTED UPON THEIR
15 ARRIVAL IN THE COUNTRY: *PROVIDED*,
16 *FINALLY*, THAT FAILURE TO PAY
17 PHILHEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL
18 NOT BE A GROUND FOR THE NON-
19 ISSUANCE OF AN OVERSEAS

1 EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATE OF A
2 MIGRANT WORKER.

3 FOR THIS PURPOSE, ‘OVERSEAS
4 FILIPINO IN DISTRESS’ REFERS TO AN
5 OVERSEAS FILIPINO WHO HAS A
6 MEDICAL, PSYCHO-SOCIAL, OR LEGAL
7 ASSISTANCE PROBLEM REQUIRING
8 TREATMENT, HOSPITALIZATION,
9 COUNSELING, LEGAL REPRESENTATION,
10 OR ANY OTHER KIND OF INTERVENTION
11 BY THE AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTRY
12 WHERE HE OR SHE IS FOUND.

13 FILIPINOS WITH DUAL CITIZENSHIP
14 (FDC), OR THOSE WHO HAVE RETAINED
15 AND RE-ACQUIRED FILIPINO
16 CITIZENSHIP BY VIRTUE OF REPUBLIC
17 ACT NO. 9225, OR THE ‘CITIZENSHIP
18 RETENTION AND REACQUISITION ACT
19 OF 2003’, MAY ENJOY THE BENEFITS
20 PROVIDED BY THE STATE HEALTH

1 **INSURER: *PROVIDED*, THAT FAILURE TO**
2 **PAY PREMIUMS SHALL NOT PREVENT**
3 **THE FDC AND THEIR LEGAL**
4 **DEPENDENTS FROM ENJOYING ANY**
5 **PROGRAM BENEFIT.**

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

19 **IN THE EVENT OF A STATE OF**
20 **NATIONAL EMERGENCY, PUBLIC**

1 HEALTH EMERGENCY, OR STATE OF
2 CALAMITY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
3 PHILIPPINES, UPON RECOMMENDATION
4 OF THE PHILHEALTH BOARD AFTER
5 CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS,
6 MAY SUSPEND THE INCREASE IN
7 PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION RATES
8 PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION. THE
9 MANDATED INCREASE SHALL BE
10 IMPLEMENTED UPON LIFTING OF THE
11 STATE OF EMERGENCY, PUBLIC HEALTH
12 EMERGENCY, OR CALAMITY. IN THE
13 EVENT OF SUSPENSION, ALL
14 SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULED INCREASES
15 IN CONTRIBUTION RATES SHALL BE
16 IMPLEMENTED ACCORDINGLY IN THE
17 SUCCEEDING YEARS.”

SEC. 4. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby
amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. *Program Reserve Funds.* –
PhilHealth shall set aside a portion of its
accumulated revenues **AS MENTIONED IN
SECTION 37 OF THIS ACT AND ANY
OTHER INCOME FROM ANY SOURCE** not
needed to meet the cost of the current year’s
expenditures as reserve funds: *Provided, That the*
total amount of reserves shall not exceed a ceiling
equivalent to the amount actuarially estimated
for two (2) years’ projected Program expenditures:
Provided, further, That whenever actual reserves
exceed the required ceiling at the end of the fiscal
year, the excess of the PhilHealth reserve fund
shall be used to increase the Program’s benefits
and to decrease the ~~[amount of members’
contributions]~~ **PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION
RATES OF MEMBERS: PROVIDED,
FINALLY, THAT THE DOH AND**

1 **PHILHEALTH SHALL INCLUDE A**
2 **MECHANISM FOR LOWERING PREMIUM**
3 **CONTRIBUTION RATES IN THE**
4 **IMPLEMENTING RULES AND**
5 **REGULATIONS OF THIS ACT.**

6 x x x

7 a) x x x

8 b) x x x

9 c) x x x

10 d) x x x

11 e) x x x

12 f) x x x

13 g) In debt instruments and other securities
14 traded in the secondary markets with the same
15 intrinsic quality as those enumerated in
16 paragraphs (a) to (e) hereof, subject to the
17 approval of the PhilHealth Board.

18 ~~[No portion of the reserve fund or income~~
19 ~~thereof shall accrue to the general fund of the~~
20 ~~National Government or to any of its agencies or~~

~~instrumentalities including government-owned or
-controlled corporations.]~~

As part of its investments operations, PhilHealth may hire institutions with valid trust licenses as its external local fund managers to manage the reserve fund, as it may deem appropriate, through public bidding. The fund manager shall submit an annual report on investment performance to PhilHealth.

x x x

The PhilHealth shall manage the supplemental benefits fund to the minimum required to ensure that the supplemental benefit payments are secure.

**NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW TO THE
CONTRARY, NO PORTION OF ANY FUND
OR INCOME OF PHILHEALTH,
INCLUDING THE PROVIDENT FUND
UNDER SECTION 16(C) AND THE SPECIAL
HEALTH FUND UNDER SECTION 20 OF**

1 **THIS ACT, SHALL ACCRUE TO THE**
2 **GENERAL FUND OF THE NATIONAL**
3 **GOVERNMENT OR TO ANY OF ITS**
4 **AGENCIES OR INSTRUMENTALITIES,**
5 **INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR**
6 **-CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS.”**

7 SEC. 5. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby
8 amended to read as follows:

9 “SEC. 13. *PhilHealth Board of Directors* – (a)

10 The PhilHealth Board of Directors, hereinafter
11 referred to as the Board, is hereby reconstituted
12 to have a maximum of [~~thirteen (13)~~] **FIFTEEN**
13 **(15)** members, consisting of the following: (1) five
14 (5) *ex officio* members, namely: the Secretary of
15 Health, Secretary of Social Welfare and
16 Development, Secretary of Budget and
17 Management, Secretary of Finance, **AND**
18 Secretary of Labor and Employment; (2) three (3)
19 expert panel members with expertise in public
20 health, management, finance, and health

economics; and (3) ~~[five-(5)]~~ **SEVEN (7)** sectoral
panel members **REPRESENTING THE**
FOLLOWING SECTORS: ~~[representing the]~~
(A) direct contributors, (B) indirect contributors
WHERE THE REPRESENTATIVE IS
HIMSELF/HERSELF AN INDIRECT
CONTRIBUTOR, (C) employers group, (D)
MEDICAL DOCTORS ENDORSED BY
THEIR PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS,
(E) **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS,**
OTHER THAN MEDICAL DOCTORS,
ENDORSED BY THEIR NATIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS OF HEALTH CARE
PROFESSIONALS, (F) DENTISTS
ENDORSED BY THEIR PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS, AND ~~[health care providers to~~
~~be endorsed by their national associations of~~
~~health care institutions and health care~~
~~professionals, and]~~ (G) ~~[representative of the]~~
elected local chief executives to be endorsed by

the League of Provinces of the Philippines,
 League of Cities of the Philippines and League of
 Municipalities of the Philippines: *Provided*, That
 at least one (1) of the expert panel members and
 at least two (2) of the sectoral panel members are
 women.

x x x

(b) The Secretary of Health shall be an *ex*
officio ~~[nonvoting]~~ Chairperson of the Board

(c) x x x

x x x.”

SEC. 6. Section 25 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby
 amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 25. *Scholarship and Training Program.*

– x x x

x x x

(d) The CHED, PRC, and DOH, in
 coordination with duly-registered medical and
 allied professional societies, shall reorient
 medical and allied medical professional

1 education, and health professional certification
2 and regulation towards producing health workers
3 with competencies in the provision of primary
4 care services **AND PUBLIC HEALTH.”**

5 SEC. 7. Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended by
6 inserting a new section to read as follows:

7 ***“SEC. 37-A. SUBMISSION OF AUDIT***
8 ***REPORT AND FUND VIABILITY PLAN. –***
9 **THE PHILHEALTH SHALL SUBMIT THE**
10 **FOLLOWING REPORTS ANNUALLY TO**
11 **THE DBM, THE SENATE, AND THE HOUSE**
12 **OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

13 **(A) MANAGEMENT AUDIT REPORT**
14 **DETAILING POLICIES AND REFORMS TO**
15 **CONTROL FRAUDULENT PRACTICES;**
16 **AND**

17 **(B) FUND VIABILITY PLAN,**
18 **INCLUDING POLICIES AND REFORMS TO**
19 **STRENGTHEN PREMIUM COLLECTION,**

1 **INCREASE PROGRAM BENEFITS, AND**
2 **MINIMIZE THE RISK OF DEFICITS.”**

3 SEC. 8. Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended by
4 inserting a new section to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 37-B. *THIRD-PARTY AUDITOR.* –**
6 **THE PHILHEALTH SHALL ENGAGE A**
7 **THIRD-PARTY AUDITOR TO REVIEW ITS**
8 **ACTUARIAL PROJECTIONS AND BENEFIT**
9 **PACKAGES ANNUALLY TO ENSURE THE**
10 **EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS**
11 **MANDATE: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE THIRD-**
12 **PARTY AUDITOR SHALL BE**
13 **INDEPENDENT, REPUTABLE, AND DULY**
14 **ACCREDITED AS SUCH BY AN**
15 **ACCREDITING OR SIMILAR AGENCY**
16 **RECOGNIZED BY INDUSTRY EXPERTS:**
17 ***PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT NOTHING**
18 **HEREIN SHALL PREVENT THE BUREAU**
19 **OF INTERNAL REVENUE AND THE**
20 **COMMISSION ON AUDIT FROM**

1 **UNDERTAKING A POST-AUDIT**
2 **INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF THE**
3 **GROSS REVENUE OF PHILHEALTH AS**
4 **DETERMINED BY THE THIRD-PARTY**
5 **AUDITOR.”**

6 SEC. 9. *Continuity of Benefits.* – Nothing in this Act
7 shall be construed to eliminate or diminish any benefits or
8 entitlements already granted to members of PhilHealth.

9 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
10 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder
11 thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and
12 effect.

13 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential
14 decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction,
15 proclamations, and administrative regulations that are
16 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
17 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect
19 after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its

- 1 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of
- 2 general circulation.

Approved,