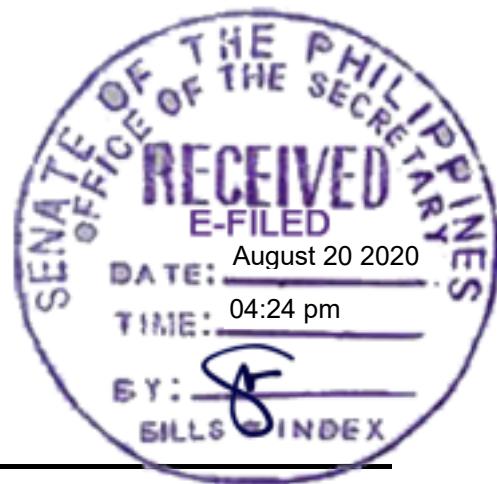


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

**SENATE**  
**S.B. No. 1782**



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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT EXEMPTING MIGRANT WORKERS FROM THE PAYMENT OF PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

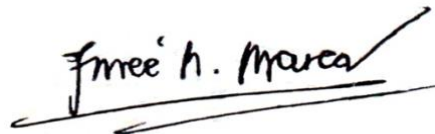
Article II, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution provides that *"the State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare."* Corollary to this, Article II Section 15 of the Constitution also mandates that *"the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."*

Under Republic Act No. 11223 or the recently enacted *"Universal Healthcare Act"*, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) or migrant workers were included as direct contributors in funding the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) of the Government, thereby subjecting them to pay premium contributions at specified rates. Pursuant to this, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) issued Circular No. 2020-0014 just last 16 April 2020 requiring OFWs with income amounting between ten thousand pesos (PhP 10,000) and twenty thousand pesos (PhP 20,000) to pay three percent (3%) of their annual salaries, effective this year. This is a raise from two and seventy five percent (2.75%) in 2019.

Since its effectivity last 22 April 2020, the global alliance of Filipino migrant workers have consistently aired their disapproval in the implementation of the said Circular, asserting that this has become too burdensome for OFWs, many of whom are already suffering from retrenchment and loss of income at this dire time of a global pandemic caused by the corona virus-2019 (COVID-19) infection.

In an effort to address the plight of our OFWs, this bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 11223 by exempting them from the mandatory payment of premium contributions and requiring that they be registered as indirect contributors where payment of premium of subsidized by the government.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Imee R. Marcos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**IMEE R. MARCOS**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



**SENATE**  
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PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE  
CORPORATION, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT," AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 hereby amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 "Sec. 4 Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

4 xxx

5 (f) Direct contributors refer to those who have the capacity  
6 to pay premiums, are gainfully employed and are bound by  
7 an employer-employee relationship, or are self-earning,  
8 professional practitioners, [migrant workers including their  
9 qualified dependents,] and lifetime members.

10 **PROVIDED THAT, MIGRANT WORKERS OR OVERSEAS**  
11 **FILIPINO WORKERS SHALL BE REGISTERED AS**  
12 **INDIRECT CONTRIBUTORS UNDER PARAGRAPH O**  
13 **HEREOF.**

1  
2 **(V) MIGRANT WORKER REFERS TO LAND-BASED**  
3 **OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS); SEAFARERS**  
4 **AND OTHER SEA-BASED WORKERS; FILIPINOS WITH**  
5 **DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN ACCORDANCE TO REPUBLIC**  
6 **ACT 9225 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
7 **"CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND REACQUISITION**  
8 **ACT OF 2003"; FILIPINOS LIVING ABROAD;**  
9 **OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN DISTRESS; AND OTHER**  
10 **OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS NOT PREVIOUSLY**  
11 **CLASSIFIED ELSEWHERE."**

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

13 "Sec. 9. *Entitlement to Benefits.* – Every member shall be  
14 granted immediate eligibility for health benefit package under  
15 the Program: *Provided,* That PhilHealth Identification Card  
16 shall not be required in the availment of any health  
17 service: *Provided, further,* That no co-payment shall be  
18 charged for services rendered in basic or ward  
19 accommodation: *Provided,* furthermore, That co-payments  
20 and co-insurance for amenities in public hospitals shall be  
21 regulated by the DOH and PhilHealth: *Provided, finally,* That  
22 the current PhilHealth package for members shall not be  
23 reduced.

24 PhilHealth shall provide additional Program benefits for direct  
25 contributors, where applicable: *Provided,* That failure to pay  
26 premiums shall not prevent the enjoyment of any Program  
27 benefits: *Provided, further,* That employers and self-  
28 employed direct contributors shall be required to pay all

1 missed contributions with an interest, compounded monthly,  
2 of at least three percent (3%) for employers and not  
3 exceeding one and one-half percent (1.5%) for self-earning,  
4 **AND** professional practitioners[, and migrant workers].

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

7 “Sec. 10. *Premium Contributions.* – For direct contributors,  
8 premium rates shall be in accordance with the following  
9 schedule, and monthly income floor and ceiling:

11	Year	Premium Rate	Income Floor	Income Ceiling
12	2019	2.75%	₱10,000.00	₱50,000.00
13	2020	3.00 %	₱10,000.00	₱60,000.00
14	2021	[3.50%] <b>3.25%</b>	₱10,000.00	₱70,000.00
15	2022	[4.00 %] <b>3.50%</b>	₱10,000.00	₱80,000.00
16	2023	[4.50 %] <b>3.75%</b>	₱10,000.00	₱90,000.00
17	2024	[5.00 %] <b>4.00%</b>	₱10,000.00	₱100,000.00
18	2025	[5.00 %] <b>4.25%</b>	₱10,000.00	₱100,000.00

19  
20 *Provided,* That for indirect contributors, premium subsidy  
21 shall be gradually adjusted and included annually in the  
22 General Appropriations Act (GAA): *Provided, further,* That  
23 the funds shall be released to  
24 PhilHealth: *Provided,* furthermore; That the DOH, in  
25 coordination with PhilHealth, may request Congress to  
26 appropriate supplemental funding to meet targeted  
27 milestones of this Act: *Provided, finally,* That for every  
28 increase in the rate of contribution of direct contributors and  
29 premium subsidy of indirect contributors, PhilHealth shall  
30 provide for a corresponding increase in benefits.”

1 **SEC.4. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared or  
2 held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby  
3 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4  
5 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All general and special laws, decrees, executive orders,  
6 proclamations and administrative regulation, or any parts thereof which are  
7 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended and modified accordingly.

8  
9 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
10 the official gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*