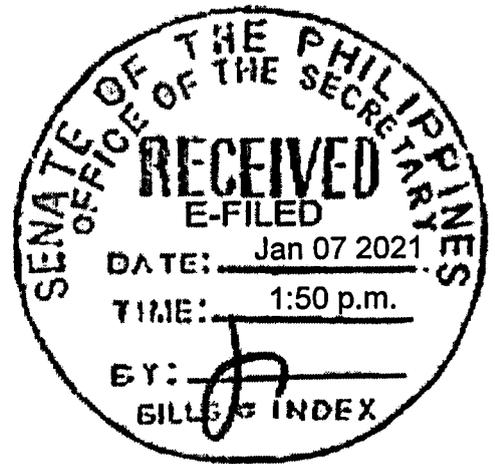


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
S. No. 1975

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT
INSTITUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS,
PRESCRIBING REFORMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The passage of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act promises access to quality and affordable health care services for all Filipinos. The landmark measure gives life to the enshrined basic right of every Filipino to health.

The law strengthened the National Health Insurance Program to ensure that all citizens will be enrolled and entitled to health care services. As a result of expanded and more comprehensive coverage, and to ensure the good financial standing of the PhilHealth fund, the law provided for automatic annual increase in premium rate, specifically for direct contributors. From 2.75% premium rate for 2019, there will be a gradual increase in premium rate every year until the rate becomes 5.0% in 2024.

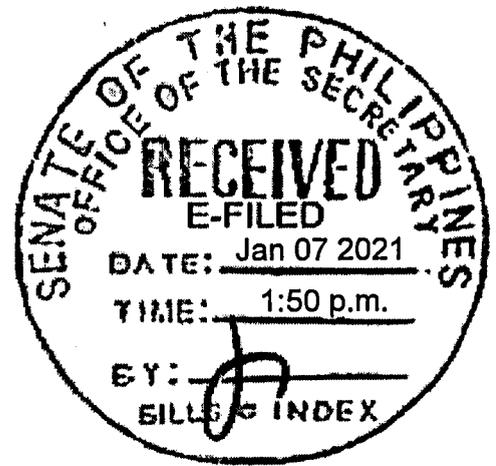
For 2021, there will be a 0.50% increase in premium rate, from 3.00% in 2020. The increase in premium contribution comes at a time when the country is still battling the pandemic and when many Filipinos have lost their jobs and livelihood due to the adverse economic effects of the health crisis. Moreover, considering the allegations of corruption and irregularities in the handling of the PhilHealth funds amounting to billions of pesos, asking members to pay more is unacceptable. Implementing such contribution hike at this time will be ill-timed, if not insensitive to the plight and hardship of our people.

This proposed bill seeks to suspend the implementation of any hike in premium contributions during state of emergency or calamity. It also limits the implementation of any adjustment in premium rates to 0.50% so as not to surprise members with any sudden and substantial increase in contribution in the future, following such deferment.

In this light, consideration of this bill is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care
2 Act, is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

6

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

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1 ***“Provided, THAT THE SCHEDULED ANNUAL***
2 ***ADJUSTMENT OF PREMIUM RATES FOR DIRECT***
3 ***CONTRIBUTORS MAY BE SUSPENDED UPON***
4 ***DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY OR STATE***
5 ***OF CALAMITY: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT ANY***
6 ***ADJUSTMENT IN THE PREMIUM RATE FOLLOWING***
7 ***THE SUSPENSION SHALL NOT BE HIGHER THAN***
8 ***0.50% FROM THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING***
9 ***PREMIUM RATE, REGARDLESS OF THE YEAR OF***
10 ***IMPLEMENTATION: PROVIDED, FURTHER,*** That for
11 indirect contributors, premium subsidy shall be gradually
12 adjusted and included annually in the General Appropriations
13 Act (GAA): *Provided, further,* That the funds shall be released
14 to PhilHealth: *Provided, furthermore;* That the DOH, in
15 coordination with PhilHealth, may request Congress to
16 appropriate supplemental funding to meet targeted
17 milestones of this Act: *Provided, finally,* That for every
18 increase in the rate of contribution of direct contributors and
19 premium subsidy of indirect contributors, PhilHealth shall
20 provide for a corresponding increase in benefits.”

21 **Sec. 2. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
23 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

24 **Sec. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
25 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

26 **Sec. 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,