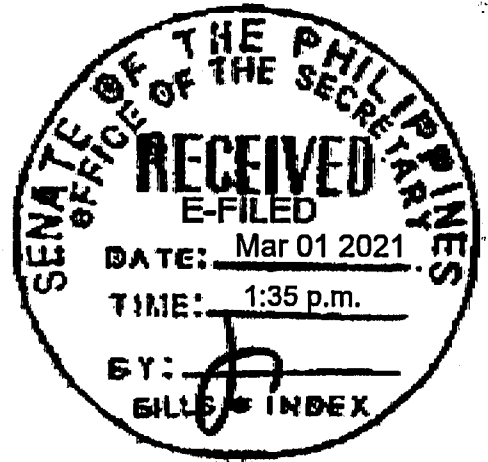


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2075

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN THE
"UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the Philippine Constitution provides that it is the duty of the State to 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 what was considered a breakthrough, a new dawn,¹ for Philippine healthcare, the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act was signed into law by President Rodrigo Duterte on February 20, 2019. Through the UHC Act, Filipinos were granted access to the full range of health services that they need without them having to break the bank. With its enactment, the UHC Act also paved the way for the State to fulfill more effectively its duty towards the health of the Filipinos, as enshrined in the Constitution.

However, it is also necessary to pay attention to the signs of the times. It is an understatement to say that things have changed. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to confront ourselves at our most vulnerable state. On one hand, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos contracted the virus, with the death toll now at 12,107.² On the other hand, there were those who, while under the threat of the dreaded disease, also

¹ "UHC Act in the Philippines: a new dawn for health care," 14 March 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/uhc-act-in-the-philippines-a-new-dawn-for-health-care>, retrieved on February 24, 2021.

² DOH Case Bulletin No. 346, as of February 23, 2021.

had to endure getting laid off, getting stranded in a different city or different country altogether, and ultimately living in challenging, uncertain times. Among those who have had to bear the brunt of this pandemic's consequences are our Overseas Filipino Workers. Truly, while they are away from their loved ones, any little thing that the State can do to alleviate their burden is likely to go a long way.

This is what the bill seeks to do, in amending Section 10 of the Universal Health Care Act. When this bill is passed into law, the premium contribution rates and schedules of our migrant workers and self-earning individuals to PhilHealth shall now be based on the income floor, resulting to a lower amount. Second, whatever unpaid contributions they may have will not be collected from them upon their entry back to the country. And finally, should our migrant workers fail to pay their PhilHealth contribution, for whatever reason, this shall not be used against them as a ground for non-issuance of overseas employment certificate.

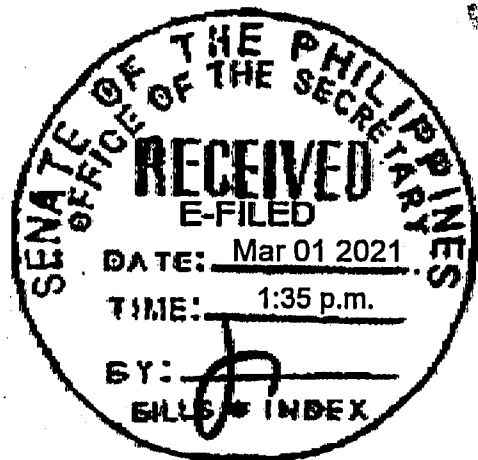
Further, as part of learning the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, this bill also stipulates that in the event of a nationally declared state of emergency or calamity, the President is authorized to suspend or defer the contribution increases stated in Section 10 of the UHC Act.

Universal health care is not meant to be a static and unchanging public service. It is a service that must take into account the various changes in context if it is to be delivered well. This bill is our way of rising to this challenge – because the pandemic has changed our context, our health care services as well as their cost must adjust as well.

Hence, I earnestly seek the swift passage of this bill into law.


RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2075

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN THE
"UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT"

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 SEC. 10. *Premium Contributions.* – For direct contributors, premium
3 rates shall be in accordance with the following schedule, and monthly income
4 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

5
6

1 **PROVIDED, THAT PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIGRANT**
2 **WORKERS AND SELF-EARNING INDIVIDUALS SHALL BE BASED ON**
3 **THE INCOME FLOOR: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT UNPAID PREMIUM**
4 **CONTRIBUTIONS OF DISTRESSED OR REPATRIATED MIGRANT**
5 **WORKERS SHALL NOT BE COLLECTED UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE**
6 **COUNTRY: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT FAILURE TO PAY PHILHEALTH**
7 **CONTRIBUTION SHALL NOT BE A GROUND FOR NON-ISSUANCE OF**
8 **OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATE OF A MIGRANT WORKER.**
9

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

19 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL HAVE THE POWER**
20 **TO SUSPEND OR DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREASES IN**
21 **PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION RATES IN THIS SECTION BY VIRTUE OF AN**
22 **ORDER ISSUED SOLELY IN TIMES OF A DECLARED STATE OF**
23 **NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR STATE OF CALAMITY FOR A PERIOD NOT**
24 **EXCEEDING SIX MONTHS WHICH MAY BE EXTENDED TO ANOTHER**
25 **SIX MONTHS UPON DETERMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT THAT**
26 **FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF**
27 **INCREASES IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT PUBLIC INTEREST AND**
28 **WELFARE: PROVIDED, THAT THIS POWER SHALL BE SUBJECT TO**
29 **CONSULTATION WITH THE PHILHEALTH AND AFFECTED MEMBERS**
30 **AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS.**
31

1 **Section 2. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
3 amended or modified accordingly.

4

5 **Section 3. Effectivity.** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the official gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of general
7 circulation.

8

9 *Approved,*

10