

S. B. No. 70

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL HEALTH PASSPORT SYSTEM AND
STRENGTHENING THE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Medical record keeping plays an essential role in any healthcare system. For Filipinos in general, it is not a usual practice to keep such documentation – whether of previous check ups, diagnostic test results, medications, treatments, and procedures done, among others. Thus, assisting Filipinos in record keeping and making medical history available should also be given emphasis and priority by the government.

The Health Passport System can help address this gap as its purpose is to provide each Filipino with a document that reflects each individual's full medical history and other relevant data, providing both the medical practitioner and the patient a full picture of the latter's condition. In the event of emergencies, this will also be a handy tool that can be essential in saving lives.

Also, medical data recorded in the health passport cautions the patient to be aware of his congenital or hereditary illness consistent with the saying that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Hence, an individual can make the necessary preparations to prevent further complication of his illness. In addition, couples will know the medical history of his or her partner and give them the chance to take steps to ensure the health of their children. The health passport will also help doctors and dentists monitor if their patients are being compliant with their scheduled health check ups and undergo recommended medical tests.

The importance of diagnostic tests may be emphasized by the fact that many suffer from misdiagnosed illnesses due to the absence of proper information. Through these tests, illnesses, medication, and other medical procedures are accurately determined. Recording of the results of these tests to one's health passport will guide physicians in making proper diagnosis, give other physicians a better perspective of the medical history of the patient, and prevent duplication of tests being done on the same patient. Furthermore, most modern hospitals in the Philippines are already using digitalized results of diagnostics tests, which makes it

easier for patients, especially if they have more than one doctor, to look at their medical results.

To use the health passport, all the patient has to do is to present it whenever he/she avails of the medical services of any public hospital, clinic, or other medical institutions. This document also intends to assist the doctor examining the patient's medical condition, either in a private or public medical facility. However, the health passport, along with PhilHealth, will not be fully and seamlessly functional if the primary health care system is not established.

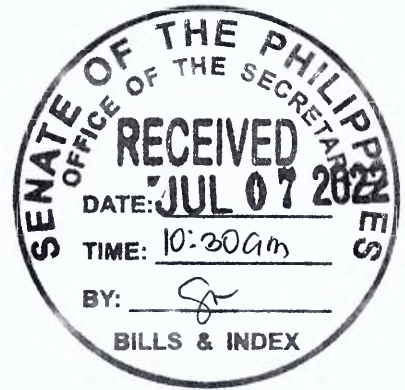
For these reasons, more than the provision of the Health Passport System, this bill's objective is to strengthen the primary healthcare system to effect change that is felt by all. Evaluation and monitoring systems will be in place to guarantee that our Rural Health Units will meet the world's standard of primary healthcare.

This bill was first filed by this Representation during my first term as a District Representative in 2000. More than two decades after, this representation looks forward to seeing this proposed legislation finally come to fruition during this Congress. In view of the foregoing, it is my hope that this measure will be expeditiously passed.



ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Health Passport*
2 *System Act*”.

3
4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and
5 promote the right to health of the people and instil health consciousness among them.
6 The State guarantees universal access to affordable and quality health care services
7 from the government, especially to the underprivileged.

8
9 Also, the State recognizes the need to adopt an integrated and comprehensive
10 approach to health development, which shall endeavour to make essential goods,
11 health and other social services available to all the people at affordable costs.

12
13 It is also the policy of the State to promote scientific and technological research
14 and development, foster invention, and utilize scientific knowledge as an effective
15 instrument for the promotion of national progress. This includes the full utilization of
16 the latest technology in the delivery of basic services to Filipinos, including healthcare
17 services.

18
19 **SECTION 3. National Health Passport System.** – Consistent with the above
20 policies, the Department of Health (DOH), in joint coordination with the Department
21 of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of Science
22 and Technology (DOST), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),
23 the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Local
24 Government Units (LGUs), shall design and implement the National Health Passport
25 System.

1
2 **SECTION 4. Content and Purpose.** – For purposes of this Act, the Health
3 Passport shall be the personal record booklet containing:

- 4 a. A medical patient’s medical and dental history as recorded by a duly-
5 licensed healthcare professional;
6 b. The names of duly-licensed healthcare professionals which the patient
7 consulted, including the date of such consultation;
8 c. Results of laboratory examinations;
9 d. Diagnosis;
10 e. Immunization records;
11 f. Drugs and medical devices prescribed, including the quantity and
12 frequency of intake or use, as the case may be, of the same;
13 g. Information on all medical and health related benefits provided by laws,
14 including benefits from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
15 (PHilHealth);
16 h. Information regarding the patient’s medical rights and privileges under the
17 passport system; and
18 i. Such other details which the DOH may deem appropriate.

19 The Health Passport shall be used as valid identification to avail of free medical
20 services, including diagnostics and treatment, in public hospitals, subject to the
21 guidelines to be set by the DOH.

22 The DICT and DOST may utilize the latest available technology, such as, but not
23 limited to, the use of a Quick Response (QR) Code which shall be linked with
24 permanent PHilHealth membership number and other pertinent details, to
25 implement this Act.

26 **SECTION 5. Authority to Access Passport.** – Access by proper medical
27 authorities to the data recorded therein shall be made upon the passport holder’s
28 prior consent. In the absence of the relatives, the physician in charge of the patient
29 shall be authorized to review the patient’s passport.
30

31 **SECTION 6. Scope of the Health Passport Program.** – All Filipino citizens
32 shall be entitled to a personal Health Passport, which shall be used for availing of
33 medical services or treatment provided in public or private medical institutions.
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35 The parents or legal guardians of children born after the effectivity of this Act
36 shall be required to enroll their children in the Health Passport System program.
37 Failure to provide the child with medical check-ups and immunization shall
38 constitute an act of child abuse or cruelty, punishable under Republic Act No. 7610,
39 otherwise known as the “Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation
40 and Discrimination Act.”
41

1 **SECTION 7. Procedure.** – Cities, municipalities, and Barangays, together with
2 the DSWD, shall be responsible for the distribution of health passports.

3
4 **SECTION 8. Digitization of Rural Health Center Records.** – In the pursuit of
5 seamless and efficient health care service, rural health centers in the Philippines are
6 directed to digitize all medical records and evaluation results. This is to create a
7 shareable database to consolidate all information that will be easily accessible in time
8 of need.

9 **SECTION 9. Senior Citizens Privileges.** – All privileges granted to senior
10 citizens under the Senior Citizen’s Act and other laws shall also apply to senior
11 citizens with health passports. Medical institutions shall give priority to senior
12 citizens on their needs.

13 **SECTION 10. Rural Health Units Assessment Report.** – DOH shall submit an
14 initial assessment report to the House of Representatives and the Senate on the status
15 of every Rural Health Unit (RHU) within ninety (90) days of the effectivity of this Act
16 to identify which RHUs do not meet the universal standards for quality primary
17 healthcare.

18 **SECTION 11. Roadmap for the Improvement of Rural Health Units.** – Based
19 on the Rural Health Units Assessment Report, as mandated by the preceding section,
20 the DOH shall likewise prepare a comprehensive roadmap elaborating the
21 recommended steps to improve the quality of primary healthcare.

22 Annually thereafter, an update report pertaining to the progress of the RHUs
23 shall be submitted to the House of Representatives and the Senate for purposes of
24 monitoring and evaluation.

25 **SECTION 12. Implementing Agency.** – The DOH shall promulgate the
26 implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act,
27 and administer this program in coordination with the local government units
28 concerned and other agencies whose functions are bound to affect the
29 implementation of this system.

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31 In this connection, the DOH is hereby mandated to conduct further study on
32 this system. The Department shall also assess the capabilities of the health
33 institutions in the local government units as well as the availability of laboratory
34 apparatuses to put into service the provisions of this Act.

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36 **SECTION 13. Appropriation.** – The sum necessary for the effective
37 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
38 Act.

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40 **SECTION 14. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act shall
41 be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not
42 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

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2 **SECTION 15. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or
3 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
4 repealed or modified accordingly.

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6 **SECTION 16. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following
7 the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
8 newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,