



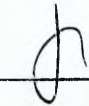
Senate

Office of the Secretary

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'22 JUL -7 P 4 :04

**SENATE**  
**Senate Bill No. 160**

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" EJERCITO

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Universal Health Care Act was designed to become a mechanism where our people could run to in times of need. It is a common fund shouldered by everyone of us so that those who would require medical attention will have the accessibility to do so. Though we pray that we are always in our best well-being, it would be comforting to know that we are assured of health care when necessary.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, our people are still managing and struggling to get back on track and re-establish financial stability. Given the devastating economic loss of the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposed measure seeks to amend the rate of Philhealth contribution to give enough breathing room for contributors who are still recovering from the financial uncertainties.

For almost two years, the pandemic has slowed down our ways of life. Most of our people were forced to stay at home and for a time told not to show up for work, domestically and internationally. As such, the bill intends to repeal the penalty interest of missed contributions of self-earning, professional practitioners, and migrant workers. In the same manner, distressed or repatriated migrant workers shall not be required to pay their missed Philhealth contributions. Our people has suffered more

than enough during the onslaught of the pandemic and such increase in contributions is not only untimely but very insensitive.

The Universal Health Care Act is a tool, an instrument to lighten the load for everyone, including migrant workers. It should not be an additional burden to those who seek employment abroad. No one should be deprived of their dreams and opportunities in the name of this Act. The law has the purest intentions of helping and not to hinder.

To assure our migrant workers that they will not be held hostage and prevented from going out of the country to work, the bill intends to expressly prohibit the non-issuance of Overseas Employment Contract for failure to pay Philhealth Premiums.

The proposed amendments in this measure aims to further our goals of having a healthy nation. This is our vision: Filipinos taking care of fellow Filipinos.

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



**JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" EJERCITO**



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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 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 9 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 Sec. 9. *Entitlement to Benefits.* – Every member shall be granted  
4 immediate eligibility for health benefit package under the NHIP: *Provided,*  
5 That PhilHealth Identification Card shall not be required in the availment  
6 of any health services: *Provided, further,* That no co-payments shall be  
7 charged for services rendered in basic accommodation: *Provided,*  
8 *furthermore,* That co-payments and co-insurance for amenities in public  
9 hospitals shall be regulated by the DOH and PhilHealth: *Provided, finally,*  
10 That the current PhilHealth package for members shall not be reduced.

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

18

1           Sec. 2. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as  
2 follows:

3           SEC. 10. *Premium Contributions.* – For direct contributors,  
4 premium rates shall be in accordance with the following schedule, and  
5 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}

6

YEAR	PREMIUM RATE	INCOME FLOOR	INCOME CEILING
2022	3%	P10,000.00	P40,000.00
2023	3.5%	P10,000.00	P40,000.00
2024	4%	P10,000.00	P40,000.00
2025	4.5%	P10,000.00	P45,000.00
2026	5%	P10,000.00	P50,000.00

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

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

10  
11            Section 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
12 regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
13 amended or modified accordingly.

14  
15            Section 4. *Effectivity.* - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
16 publication in the official gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of general  
17 circulation.

*Approved,*