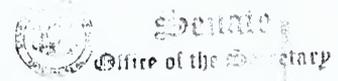


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 JUL 14 P 4 :01

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

S.B. No. 644

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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.*"

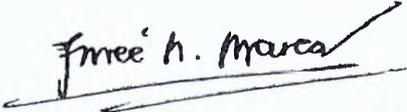
Under Republic Act No. 11223 or the recently enacted "Universal Healthcare Act", Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) or migrant workers were included as direct contributors in funding the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) of the Government, thereby subjecting them to pay premium contributions at specified rates. Since its effectivity, 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.

On June 2022, the Federation of Free Workers President Sonny Matula stated that, "*Napakabigat po nito lalong-lalo na para sa ating mga overseas Filipino workers*

sapagkat sila po lahat, 100% sa kanilang balikat po ang pagbabayad ng premium na ito."

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.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS

1 REGISTERED AS INDIRECT CONTRIBUTORS
2 UNDER PARAGRAPH O HEREOF.

3 X X X
4

5 (V) MIGRANT WORKER REFERS TO LAND-BASED
6 OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS);
7 SEAFARERS AND OTHER SEA-BASED WORKERS;
8 FILIPINOS WITH DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN
9 ACCORDANCE TO REPUBLIC ACT 9225
10 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
11 "CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND REACQUISITION
12 ACT OF 2003"; FILIPINOS LIVING ABROAD;
13 OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN DISTRESS; AND OTHER
14 OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS NOT PREVIOUSLY
15 CLASSIFIED ELSEWHERE."
16

17 SEC. 2. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as
18 follows:
19

20 "Sec. 9. *Entitlement to Benefits.* – Every member shall
21 be granted immediate eligibility for health benefit package
22 under the Program: *Provided,* That PhilHealth
23 Identification Card shall not be required in the
24 availment of any health service: *Provided, further,* That
25 no co-payment shall be charged for services
26 rendered in basic or ward accommodation:
27 *Provided, furthermore,* That co-payments and co-
28 insurance for amenities in public hospitals shall be
29 regulated by the DOH and PhilHealth: *Provided, finally,*
30 That the current PhilHealth package for members shall
31 not be reduced.
32

33 PhilHealth shall provide additional Program benefits for
34 direct contributors, where applicable: *Provided,* That
35 failure to pay premiums shall not prevent the enjoyment
36 of any Program benefits: *Provided, further,* That
37 employers and self-employed direct contributors
38 shall be required to pay all missed contributions with an

1 interest, compounded monthly, of at least three percent
2 (3%) for employers and not exceeding one and one-
3 half percent (1.5%) for self-earning, **AND** professional
4 practitioners[, and migrant workers].
5

6 **SEC. 3.** Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as
7 follows:
8

9 **Sec. 10. Premium Contributions.** – For direct
10 contributors, premium rates shall be in accordance
11 with the following schedule, and monthly income floor
12 and ceiling:
13

Year	Premium Rate	Income Floor	Income Ceiling
2019	2.75%	₱10,000.00	₱50,000.00
2020	3.00 %	₱10,000.00	₱60,000.00
2021	[3.50%] 3.25%	₱10,000.00	₱70,000.00
2022	[4.00 %] 3.50%	₱10,000.00	₱80,000.00
2023	[4.50 %] 3.75%	₱10,000.00	₱90,000.00
2024	[5.00 %] 4.00%	₱10,000.00	₱100,000.00
2025	[5.00 %] 4.25%	₱10,000.00	₱100,000.00

14
15 *Provided,* That for indirect contributors, premium
16 subsidy shall be gradually adjusted and included annually in
17 the General Appropriations Act (GAA): *Provided,* further, That
18 the funds shall be released to PhilHealth:
19 *Provided,* furthermore; That the DOH, in coordination
20 with PhilHealth, may request Congress to appropriate
21 supplemental funding to meet targeted milestones
22 of this Act: *Provided,* finally, That for every increase in the
23 rate of contribution of direct contributors and premium subsidy
24 of indirect contributors, PhilHealth shall provide for a
25 corresponding increase in benefits.
26

1 **IN THE EVENT OF A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY**
2 **OR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, OR STATE OF**
3 **NATIONAL CALAMITY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE**
4 **PHILIPPINES, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE**
5 **PHILHEALTH BOARD AFTER CONSULTATION WITH**
6 **STAKEHOLDERS, MAY SUSPEND THE INCREASE IN**
7 **PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION RATES PROVIDED UNDER**
8 **THIS SECTION. THE MANDATED INCREASE SHALL BE**
9 **IMPLEMENTED UPON THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF**
10 **NATIONAL EMERGENCY, OR PUBLIC HEALTH**
11 **EMERGENCY, OR STATE OF NATIONAL CALAMITY. ALL**
12 **SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULED INCREASES IN**
13 **CONTRIBUTION RATES SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED IN**
14 **THE SUCCEEDING YEARS ACCORDINGLY.”**

15
16 **SEC. 4. *Continuity of Benefits.*** – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to
17 eliminate or diminish any benefits or entitlements already granted to members of
18 PhilHealth.

19
20 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason any part or provision of this Act
21 shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall
22 not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

23
24 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All provisions of existing laws, orders and
25 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
26 accordingly.

27
28 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,