

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



22 AUG -8 P2:37

SENATE
S. No. 1102

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Pursuant to this, the government effects and implements health and medical programs. Successful implementation, however, is hindered by high cost of medical care as well as by lack of or inadequate information dissemination on significant health issues.

Universal Health Care Law was passed to address the problem of rising costs of medical expenses, and access to medical facilities, supplies, equipment and medicines. But there is also a need to address the lack of or inadequate information and medical record keeping as this also plays an essential role in any healthcare system.

Accordingly, the proposed Health Passport System (HPS) can address the void or inadequacy, thus helping to complete the healthcare system. The Health Passport will provide each Filipino with a document that reflects each individual's full medical history and other relevant data. This can be used during medical and dental check-ups or treatment in government or private medical institutions. With medical

information easily and readily accessible and available, Filipinos are empowered to take care of his or her health thereby improving the health of every individual and their families.

In line with this, the passage of this measure into law is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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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 System*
2 *Act*”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and
4 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.
5 Free medical care shall be provided to the underprivileged and that their needs shall
6 be prioritized.

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

10 It is also the policy of the State to fully utilize technology and use this as
11 leverage to ensure better delivery of medical services to all Filipinos.

12 Sec. 3. *National Health Passport System.* – Consistent with the above policies,
13 the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the local government units,
14 shall undertake the implementation of the National Health Passport System.

15 Sec. 4. *Content and Purpose.* – For purposes of this Act, the Health Passport
16 shall be the mobile record booklet of the patient containing, among others, the
17 following:

- 1 a. Patient's medical and dental history as recorded by the physician, dentist or
- 2 authorized health professionals;
- 3 b. Medical and dental test results;
- 4 c. Diagnosis;
- 5 d. Medicines and medical treatment availed of;
- 6 e. Basic medical data;
- 7 f. Information on all medical and health related benefits provided by laws; and
- 8 g. Information regarding the patient's medical rights and privileges under the
- 9 passport system.

10 The Health Passport shall serve as the patient's official recognition that he could
11 avail of the free medical and dental diagnostics tests in government hospitals subject
12 to the requirements to be set by the DOH and the local government units where the
13 passport holder resides.

14 *Sec. 5. Authority to Access Passport.* – Access by proper medical authorities to
15 the data recorded therein shall be made upon the passport holder's prior consent. In
16 the absence of the relatives, the physician in charge of the patient shall be authorized
17 to review the patient's passport.

18 *Sec. 6. Scope of the Health Passport Program.* – All Filipino citizens shall be
19 entitled to a health passport, which shall be used whenever a patient avails of medical
20 and dental check-ups or treatment provided in government or private medical
21 institutions.

22 The parents or legal guardians of children born after the effectivity of this Act
23 shall be required to enroll their children in the Health Passport Program. The health
24 passport shall be employed to record the child's initial medical check-up including the
25 necessary immunization. Failure to provide the child with medical check-ups and
26 immunization shall constitute as evidence of violation of the provisions of Article VI,
27 Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the Anti-Child Abuse Act.

28 The DOH is hereby mandated to issue the guidelines for the medical and dental
29 check-ups and the immunization of children.

30 *Sec. 7. Procedure.* – The City, Municipality, and/or Barangay together with the
31 Department of Social Welfare and Development shall be responsible for the evaluation
32 of the applicants for the free medical and dental diagnostic tests. Those qualified shall

1 then be recommended to the primary medical institution of the local government unit
2 concerned (e.g. district hospital, provincial hospital or regional hospital) for the
3 issuance of the health passport.

4 Those who want to obtain the health passport without availing the privilege of
5 free medical and dental diagnostic test may directly secure the same from the
6 aforementioned medical institutions or the local government units implementing the
7 program.

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

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

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

19 Annually thereafter, an update report pertaining to the progress of the RHUs
20 shall be submitted to both Houses of Congress for purposes of monitoring and
21 evaluation.

22 *Sec. 11. Implementing Agency.* – The DOH shall promulgate the implementing
23 rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, and administer
24 this program in coordination with the local government units concerned and other
25 agencies whose functions are bound to affect the implementation of this system.

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

30 *Sec. 12. Appropriation.* – The amount of one hundred million pesos (Php
31 100,000,000.00) shall automatically be included in the annual appropriation of DOH
32 for the next five (5) years for the implementation of this Act.

1 Sec. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act shall be held
2 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise
3 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

4 Sec. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portions
5 thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
6 modified accordingly.

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

Approved,