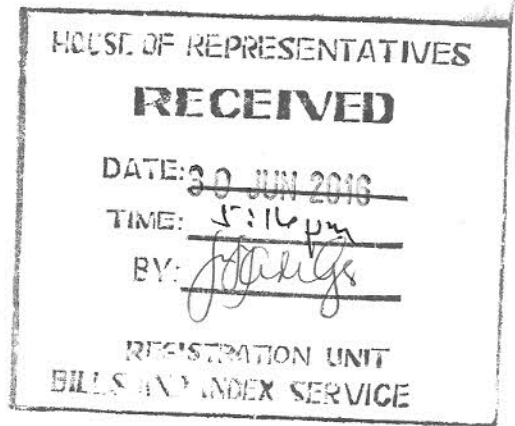


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 541



Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Health is a basic human right as provided for in Section 15, Article 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which states:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”


An increasing number of Filipinos are concerned about the high cost of medical care in the Philippines and whether they can afford hospital bills and medical bills without health insurance. For those without good health insurance, the threat of being financially ruined by a serious family sickness is a grave concern. For the very poor, a treatable illness can be a family tragedy.

Hospital bills and the costs of procedures are exorbitant; and similarly even doctor’s bills and medicines are becoming too expensive. Resultantly, we are becoming a nation avoids doctors and hospital visits due to the expenses, this obviously puts people’s health at risk.

This proposed bill will provide for transparent, accessible and reliable information on the prices of healthcare services, including incidental expenses and all items that can be found in a medical bill by requiring healthcare facilities to provide a price list of the said services and items.

Knowing the prices in advance enables the public to make intelligent estimates of the costs they would incur upon admission of the patient and allows them to avoid surprises in the billing once the patient is discharged.

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


VICTOR A. YAP
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 541

Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

AN ACT
REQUIRING HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO PROVIDE A PRICE LIST OF ITS
HEALTHCARE SERVICES INCLUDING INCIDENTAL EXPENSES AND MEDICAL
SUPPLIES THAT CAN BE CHARGED IN THE MEDICAL BILL

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 “Healthcare Services Price Disclosure
2 Act of 2016”.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to
4 health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State shall enforce a
5 compulsory posting of the price list of healthcare services, including incidental expenses and medical
6 supplies that can be charged in the medical bill, to enable the public to obtain accurate and adequate
7 information that would facilitate and guide them in making a conscious choice of healthcare facility.

8 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the term:

9 (a) Diagnostic and laboratory clinic refers to a health facility for X-ray, CT scans, blood chemistry
10 exams, histopathology and immunopathology, hematology, urine analysis, parasitology and
11 bacteriology test, serology, blood banking and other diagnostic examinations that are necessary for
12 the diagnosis and/or treatment of an illness or injury.

13 (b) Healthcare services refer to the services for the diagnosis, treatment and other forms of
14 healthcare of individuals suffering from deformity, disease, illness or injury, or in need of surgical,
15 obstetrical, medical or nursing care that are offered, available and provided by the hospitals,
16 ambulatory surgical centers, diagnostic and laboratory clinics and other medical clinics.

17 The term healthcare services shall also include dental services to perform oral examination, cleaning,
18 permanent and temporary filling, extractions and gum treatments, restoration, replacement or
19 repositioning of teeth, or alteration of the alveolar or periodontium process of the maxilla and the
20 mandible that are necessary for the diagnosis and/or treatment of a dental illness or injury.

21 (c) Healthcare facilities refer to hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, diagnostic and laboratory
22 clinics, medical clinics and/or facilities which provide healthcare services, as defined under this Act,

1 whether or not there is an operating room equipment and installed bassinets or beds for the use of
2 patients in the management of deformities, diseases, injuries, abnormal physical and mental
3 conditions, and maternity cases.

4 (d) Incidental expenses refer to other services provided by the healthcare facility incidental and in
5 connection with the healthcare services provided such as, but not limited to, charges for room and
6 amenities, meals, drugs and medicines, and payments for use of medical equipment and technology.

7 (e) Medical bill refers to the costs of healthcare services rendered by the healthcare facility including
8 incidental expenses and medical supplies charged to the patient.

9 (f) Medical equipment and technology refer to the equipment designed to aid in providing healthcare
10 services.

11 (g) Medical supplies refer to all healthcare materials and articles used for providing healthcare
12 services and can be charged in the medical bill.

13 (h) Patient refers to a person seeking admission or who is admitted and has availed of healthcare
14 services in a healthcare facility.

15 (i) Room and amenities refer to an occupancy room or a ward room where a patient is admitted for
16 healthcare services, including a detailed list of its amenities.

17 **SEC. 4. Price List of Healthcare Services and Incidental Expenses Including Medical**
18 **Supplies Offered and Charged by a Healthcare Facility.** – Healthcare facilities shall make a
19 price list of its healthcare services, incidental expenses and medical supplies that can be charged in
20 the medical bill available to any patient or patient’s representative, so that the patient or patient’s
21 representative may adequately exercise the option to choose a healthcare facility. The price list shall
22 likewise be easily accessible to the general public and without need of any further inquiry by posting
23 the price list in a conspicuous place within the premises of the healthcare facility.

24 All medical bills shall list and itemize all healthcare services, incidental expenses and medical supplies
25 availed or used by the patient with their corresponding prices charged to the patient.

26 **SEC. 5. Price List of Healthcare Services, Incidental Expenses and Medical Supplies**
27 **Binding on Healthcare Facility.** – The price list of healthcare services, incidental expenses and
28 medical supplies shall be binding on the healthcare facility upon the admission of the patient. Any
29 increase in the price of healthcare services, incidental expenses and medical supplies shall take effect
30 only after proper posting as required in this Act: Provided, That the increase shall not affect patients
31 admitted prior to posting of increase in price.

32 **SEC. 6. Penalties.** – (a) Any person who shall violate the provisions of this Act or its implementing
33 rules and regulations shall be subject to a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but
34 not more than Twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000.00) per instance of violation without prejudice

1 to administrative sanctions such as suspension or cancellation of license to practice profession for a
2 period not exceeding sixty (60) days.

3 (b) Any juridical person which violates the provisions of this Act shall suffer the penalty of a fine of
4 not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) nor more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) per
5 instance of violation and suspension or revocation of license to operate such healthcare facility for a
6 period not exceeding sixty (60) days: Provided, That its officers directly responsible for the violation
7 shall suffer the penalty of a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than
8 Twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000.00) per instance of violation and suspension or revocation of
9 license to practice profession for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days: Provided, further, That if
10 the guilty party is an alien, he shall be ipso facto deported after payment of fine without need of
11 further proceedings.

12 The Secretary of Health shall have the authority to impose the administrative fines and sanctions
13 provided herein including suspension or revocation of license to operate such healthcare facility or
14 recommend suspension of license to practice profession to the Professional Regulation Commission
15 as the case may be for the violation of this Act.

16 **SEC. 7. Implementing Agency.** – The Department of Health (DOH) shall enforce the provisions
17 of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

18 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of
19 this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government,
20 shall issue the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

21 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or
22 invalid, the other provisions hereof that are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
23 and effect.

24 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and
25 administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
26 repealed or modified accordingly.

27 **SEC. 11. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
28 Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

29 **Approved,**