



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**Second Regular Session**

**House Bill No. 7913**

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

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AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11223,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A global pandemic in 2020 all the more puts the spotlight on the importance of a comprehensive and quality healthcare system. For many Filipinos, however, access to healthcare services continues to be a challenge.

Although the Congress passed Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act on February 20, 2019, certain provisions—specifically Sections 9 and 34—have to be updated to ensure that more Filipinos will have access to the full continuum of health services they need and be protected from financial hardship as a result of seeking treatment or hospitalization.

By enabling PhilHealth to adjust the packages subject to the review, assessment, and recommendation of the Health Technology Assessment Council, more Filipinos in the marginalized sector are expected to benefit from these updated provisions.

  
**MARLYN B. ALONTE**



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

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

SECTION 1. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 9. Entitlement to Benefits. – Every member shall be granted immediate eligibility for health benefit package under the Program: Provided, That PhilHealth Identification Card shall not be required in the availment of any health service: Provided, further, That no co-payment shall be charged for services rendered in basic or ward accommodation: Provided, furthermore, That co-payments and co-insurance for amenities in public hospitals shall be regulated by the DOH and PhilHealth: Provided, [finally] **FURTHERMORE**, That the [current] **EXISTING** PhilHealth [package] **COVERAGE** for members shall not be reduced: **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE AMOUNTS UNDER EACH BENEFIT PACKAGE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 34 OF THIS ACT.**”

SEC. 2. Section 34 of Republic Act No. 11223 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 34. Health Technology Assessment (HTA). –

(a) x x x.

(b) x x x.

(c) The HTAC, to be composed of health experts, shall be created within the DOH and supported by a Secretariat and a Technical Unit for Policy, Planning and Evaluation with evidence generation and validation capacity. The HTAC shall: (1) facilitate provision of financing and/or coverage recommendations on health technologies to be financed by DOH and PhilHealth; (2) oversee and coordinate the HTA process within DOH and PhilHealth; and (3) review and assess existing DOH and PhilHealth benefit packages **AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE AND REASONABLE AMOUNTS PER PACKAGE BASED ON PREVAILING TECHNOLOGIES AND/OR TREATMENT.** Within five (5) years after the establishment and effective operation of the HTAC, it shall transition into an independent entity separate from the DOH, attached to DOST.

(d) x x x.

(e) x x x."

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of the general circulation.

*Approved,*