

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9440



Introduced by Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The global pandemic brought about several community quarantines in the country in order to reduce and mitigate the spread of the deadly coronavirus. During this time, while most are transitioning to a remote working set up, our medical workers kept the line and reported to work in order to accomodate the many patients affected by the virus requiring intensive medical care.

This humble representation believes that a worded recognition of their efforts is not enough; the State should be able provide them with the added support that they truly need at the present. We must protect our medical workers for their contribution to the country during this time is immeasurable.

This measure seeks to provide our heroic medical frontliners discount privileges on essential goods and services in the hopes that it can provide them with additional support and aid. This proposed privilege will include discounts on public transportation, health services, and other facilities.

In light of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO

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AN ACT GRANTING DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES TO MEDICAL FRONTLINERS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assemble

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Medical Frontliners Discount Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the welfare of medical workers in recognition of their indispensable role in the healthcare system of our country, particularly in times of a pandemic or public health emergency. Towards this end, the State shall adopt a program to make essential goods, health and other services available to them at an affordable cost.

The provisions and benefits of this Act shall be given to public and private medical workers who are actively engaged in treating patients affected by a pandemic or national health emergency. The provisions of this Act shall apply only during a pandemic or public health emergency as declared by the National Government.

SECTION 3. Public Transport Facilities. – All government-owned and controlled corporations or private entities, owning, operating, or managing public transport facilities, whether land, sea, or air, shall give priority to the medical frontline workers, and provide them with at least twenty (20% discount on all transportation fare within the Philippines.

SECTION 4. Health Services. – Medical frontline workers shall also be entitled to a discount of at least twenty percent (20%) on fees or charges for hospital, medical, and dental services rendered by public and private medical institution and practitioners.

Drugstores and drug companies shall extend to the medical frontline workers a discount of not less than twenty percent (20%) on the cost of medicines and supplemental vitamins, as prescribed by a registered medical or dental practitioner.

SECTION 5. Hotels, Lodging Houses, Restaurants, and Eateries. – Medical frontline workers shall be granted a minimum discount of twenty percent (20%) on rentals for lodging in hotels, motels, inns, pension, or other lodging houses and on the cost of food served in cafes, cafeterias, refreshment parlors, restaurants, soda fountain bars, carinderia, or food cafeterias, and other similar establishments.

SECTION 6. Physical Fitness Facilities. – Any hospital, gym, or other facility offering physical fitness programs shall extend to medical frontline workers at a twenty percent (20%) discount.

SECTION 7. Limitation on discount privileges and other benefits. – The discount privileges and other benefits mentioned in this Act shall apply only to the personal account of the medical frontline worker in payment for services and goods actually used by him or her. These shall not extend to his or her relatives or companions who are not qualified beneficiaries under this Act.

SECTION 8. Availment. - Medical frontline workers qualified under this Act may avail of the discount privileges upon presentation of a valid identification card issued by their employer, a Professional Regulation Commission Professional ID Card and a supporting document issued by employer stating that they are in fact engaged in the treatment of patients affected by a pandemic or a national health emergency.

SECTION 9. Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Health, in coordination with the other concerned government agencies, in coordination with other stakeholders, shall issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this act

SECTION 10. Penalties. – Any person who refuses to extend the privileges and benefits under this Act to medical frontline workers entitled thereto after request and proper identification of who unduly takes advantage of any such privileges or benefits, or who violates any of the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act, shall suffer the penalty of prision correccional or a fine of not less than two hundred pesos (PhP 200.00) nor more than six thousand pesos (PhP 6,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

In case the offender is a corporation, cooperative, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the president, manager, or officers thereof who had knowingly permitted or were otherwise responsible for the commission of the

offense. If it can be shown such refusal to grant discount privileges is a corporate decision, all the members of the board shall be held liable.

In case of a succeeding offense, the penalties of both imprisonment and fine shall be imposed in the maximum period. In addition thereto, such shall be sufficient cause for the immediate cancellation of the professional license or permit to operate the business or medical establishment.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. - All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Approved,