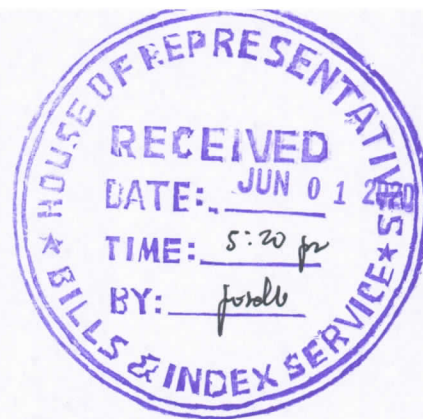


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6907

Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has the second most expensive medical services in Southeast Asia at 13.7% health care inflation in 2019.¹ According to the Philippine Wellness Index, nearly half of Filipinos are unsure if they can pay for their hospitalization if they get sick. At least 40% of the 1,350 respondents from various parts of the country expressed uncertainty on their capability of paying medical bills.

Most are afraid of availing medical services because of the financial uncertainty charged by healthcare facilities that usually result in hefty surprise medical bills. A factor contributing to this problem is the absence of a complete, transparent and free-from-hidden-costs price list for the patient and their family. It creates a culture where most Filipinos lack the confidence to address their medical needs and avoid doctors and hospital visits. This places the nation's health at risk in the long run.

This bill seeks to require all healthcare facilities in the country to provide a complete and reliable price list for the patient and their families. By providing a complete list, it will enable the public to compare the costs of available health services and freely

¹Business World. "Growth in PHL health care costs second-highest in Asia". Retrieved from <https://www.bworldonline.com/growth-in-phl-health-care-costs-second-highest-in-asia-mercero/>

decide where to obtain the best and affordable medical services. Further, it would also protect patients against unfair and misleading sales and practices in some healthcare facilities by providing a transparent list of services.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MDC', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

Representative

Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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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 the House of Representatives of the Philippine in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.*— This Act shall be known as "Healthcare Services
2 Price Disclosure Act".

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

11
12 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.*— For purposed of this Act:

1
2 (a) *Diagnostic and laboratory clinic* refers to a health facility for X-ray, CT
3 scans, blood chemistry exams, histopathology and immunopathology,
4 hematology, urine analysis, parasitology and bacteriology test, serology,
5 blood banking and other diagnostic examinations that are needed for the
6 diagnosis and/or treatment of an illness or injury;

7
8 (b) *Healthcare services* refer to the services for the diagnosis, treatment and
9 other forms of healthcare of individuals suffering from deformity, disease,
10 illness or injury, or in need of surgical, obstetrical, medical or nursing care
11 that are offered, available and provided by the hospitals, ambulatory
12 surgical centers, diagnostic and laboratory clinics and other medical clinics.

13
14 The term healthcare series shall also include dental services to perform
15 oral examination, cleaning, permanent and temporary filling, extractions
16 and gum treatments, restoration, replacement or repositioning of teeth, or
17 alteration of the alveolar or periodontium process of the maxilla and the
18 mandible that are necessary for the diagnosis and/or treatment of a dental
19 illness or injury;

20
21 (c) *Healthcare facilities* refer to hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers,
22 diagnostic and laboratory clinics, medical clinics and/or facilities which
23 provide healthcare services, as defined herein, whether or not there is an
24 operating room equipment and installed bassinets or beds for the use of
25 patients in the management of deformities, diseases, injuries, abnormal
26 physical and mental conditions and maternity cases;

27
28 (d) *Incidental expenses* refer to the cost of other services provided by the
29 healthcare facility incidental and in connection with the healthcare services
30 provided, such as, but not limited to, charges for room and amenities,
31 meals, drugs, medicines and payments for use of medical equipment and
32 technology;

(e) *Medical bill* refers to the costs of healthcare services rendered by the healthcare facility including professional fees, incidental expenses and medical supplies, among others, charge to the patient;

(f) *Medical equipment and technology* refer to the equipment designed to aid in providing healthcare services;

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

(h) *Patient* refers to a person seeking admission or who is admitted and availed of healthcare services in a healthcare facility;

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

Sec. 4. Price List of Healthcare Services and Incidental Expenses Including Medical Supplies Offered and Charged by a Healthcare Facility.— Healthcare facilities shall provide a price list of its healthcare services, incidental expenses and medical supplies that can be charged in the medical bill available to any patient or patient's representative, so that the patient or patient's representative may adequately exercise the option to choose a healthcare facility. The price list shall likewise be easily accessible to the general public and without need of any further inquiry by posting the price list in their respective website and in conspicuous place within the premises of the healthcare facility.

All medical bills shall include a list and itemization of all healthcare services, incidental expenses and medical supplies availed or used by the patient with their corresponding prices charged to the patient.

1 Sec. 5. *Price List of Healthcare Services, Incidental Expenses and Medical*
2 *Supplies Binding on Healthcare Facility.*— The price list of healthcare services,
3 incidental expenses and medical supplies shall be binding on the healthcare facility
4 upon the admission of the patient. Any increase in the price of healthcare services,
5 incidental expenses and medical supplies shall take effect only after proper posting
6 as required in this Act: *Provided,* That the increase shall not affect patients admitted
7 prior to the posting of increase in price.

8
9 Sec. 6. *Penalties.*—

10
11 (a) Any person who shall violate the provisions of this Act or its implementing
12 rules and regulations shall be subject to a fine of not less than Five thousand
13 pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Twenty-five thousand pesos
14 (P25,000.00) per instance of violation without prejudice to administrative
15 sanctions as suspension or cancellation of license to practice profession for a
16 period not exceeding sixty (60) days.

17
18 (b) Any juridical person which violates the provisions of this Act shall suffer
19 the penalty of a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but
20 not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) per instance of violation and
21 suspension or revocation of license to operate such healthcare facility for a
22 period of not exceeding sixty (60) days: *Provided,* That its officers directly
23 responsible for the violation shall suffer the penalty of a fine of not less than
24 Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Twenty five thousand
25 pesos (P25,000.00) per instance of violation and suspension or revocation of
26 license to practice profession for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days:
27 *Provided, further,* That if the guilty party is an alien, he shall be *ipso facto*
28 deported after payment of fine without need of further proceedings.

29
30 The Secretary of Health shall have the authority to impose the administrative
31 fines and sanctions provided herein including suspension or revocation of license to
32 operate such healthcare facility or recommend suspension of license to practice

1 profession to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as the case may be for
2 the violation of this Act.

3
4 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.*— The Department of Health, in
5 coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall
6 within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and
7 regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

8
9 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.*— If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
10 unconstitutional, the other remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected
11 thereby shall remain in force and effect.

12
13 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.*— Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
14 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the
15 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

16
17 *Sec. 10. Effectivity.*— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,