Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10365

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
GRANTING CONTINUING COVID-19 BENEFITS TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTH WORKERS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The prolonged battle of our country against the COVID-19 pandemic is causing fatigue and extremely difficult conditions for our health workers. We want to honor their invaluable work by at least giving the benefits that are due them.

These benefits are outlined in the Republic Act No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (“Bayanihan 2”). However, the law already lapsed on June 30, 2021. This measure mandates the continuing grant of the COVID-19 benefits to public and private health workers with retroactive application from July 2021 and shall remain available so long as the Presidential declaration of national public health emergency is in place.

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

LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known and cited as "COVID-19 Benefits for Health Workers Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall instill health consciousness among our people and recognizes that adequate support to our health workers, in public and private sectors, is paramount to ensure continuous delivery of health services especially during the existence of a national public health emergency. Towards this end, it shall safeguard the welfare of our health workers and guarantee that all benefits owing to them shall be provided to them with utmost efficiency.

SEC. 3. Coverage. – This Act shall apply to all public and private health workers during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic, regardless of employment status. Public and private health workers shall refer to medical, allied medical, and other necessary personnel assigned in hospitals, healthcare facilities, laboratories, medical or quarantine facilities, or vaccination sites and those administering medical assistance. It also includes non-medical workers and outsourced personnel hired under institutional or individual contract of service or job order basis who are similarly exposed to COVID-19.

SEC. 4. Continuing Grant of COVID-19 Benefits. – The national government shall provide the following benefits to covered individuals under Section 3 hereof:
(a) COVID-19 special risk allowance and active hazard duty pay for every month served: Provided, That the special risk allowance and active hazard duty pay shall be in addition to existing benefits being received by health workers under existing laws;

(b) Provision of life insurance, accommodation, transportation, and meals, regardless of the community quarantine status; and

c) Provision of compensation to those who have contracted COVID-19 in the line of duty, with the following amounts, upon submission of required documents to support claims:

(1) In case of death of the covered individual. One million pesos (P1,000,000) shall be provided to the heirs of the covered individuals;
(2) In case of sickness, for a severe or critical case. One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) shall be provided to the covered individuals; and
(3) In case of sickness, for a mild or moderate case. Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000) shall be provided to the covered individuals;

Provided, That the compensation provided herein shall be given to the beneficiaries not later than three (3) months after the date of confinement or death.

The provision of the foregoing benefits shall have retroactive application from July 1, 2021 and shall remain in full force and effect during the state of national public health emergency as declared by the President.

SEC. 5. Tax Exemption. – The benefits received by covered workers under this Act, during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic shall be exempt from income tax.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year available appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health and the Department of Budget and Management shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The non-promulgation of the rules and regulations provided under this section shall not prevent the immediate implementation of this Act upon effectivity.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, executive issuances or letters of instruction, rules and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified
accordingly.

**SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or parts of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any competent court, other sections or provision hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,