

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4489



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**Introduced by HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,  
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIV, Section 5 (5) of the 1987 Constitution affirms that the State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.

Public school teachers remain overworked and unappreciated. According to a survey conducted among 6,731 public school teachers from March to April 2021,<sup>1</sup> more than 70% of teacher-respondents deemed that teaching workload has debilitating impacts on their physical and mental health. Likewise, about 10% admitted to already falling ill due to burdensome duties.<sup>2</sup>

While Republic Act No. 4670, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Public School Teachers” provides for the rights and privileges of public educators, their healthcare protection remains blurry on what the coverages are. Our public school teachers need to shoulder the burden of out-of-pocket expenses just to access basic and diagnostic tests to ensure their welfare. The amount of medical examination expenses varies depending on the teachers’ location and ranges from P400.00 to P1,500.00.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Overworked, undersupported, stressed out’ teachers seek help from the government. Information retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/04/29/overworked-undersupported-stressed-out-teachers-seek-help-from-the-govt>. Dated April 29, 2021

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Manila Bulletin. Teachers remind DepEd of free medical exams provision in 53-year-old law. Information retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2020/03/04/teachers-remind-deped-of-free-medical-exams-provision-in-53-year-old-law/>. Dated March 4, 2020

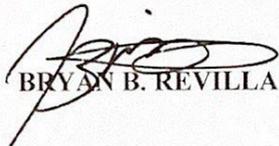
This bill seeks to amend Section 22 of Republic Act No. 4670, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Public School Teachers” to provide for free annual comprehensive physical check-up for public school teachers. It shall include basic and diagnostic tests such as complete blood count (CBC), urinalysis (macroscopic and chemical examination), fecalysis, chest x-ray and complete physical exam.

In this light, it is fervently intended to alleviate and improve the plight of our public school teachers.

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

  
RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III

  
LANI MERCADO-REVILLA

  
BRYAN B. REVILLA

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**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 22 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS”, THEREBY PROVIDING FREE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL CHECK-UP FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 22 of Republic Act No. 4670, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Public School Teachers” is hereby amended as follows:

“SECTION 22. [~~Medical Examination and Treatment~~] **FREE ANNUAL PHYSICAL HEALTH CHECK-UP.** – [~~Compulsory medical examination shall be provided free of charge for all teachers before they take up teaching, and shall be repeated not less than once a year during the teacher’s professional life. Where medical examination show that medical treatment and/or hospitalization is necessary, same shall be provided free by the government entity paying the salary of the teachers.~~] **IT IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED THAT AN ANNUAL PHYSICAL CHECK-UP OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS SHALL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO ENSURE THEIR OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELLNESS. IT SHALL INCLUDE BASIC DIAGNOSTIC AND LABORATORY TESTS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED, TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- (A) COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT;
- (B) URINALYSIS (MACROSCOPIC AND CHEMICAL EXAMINATION);
- (C) FECALYSIS;
- (D) CHEST X-RAY; AND
- (E) COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAM (VITAL SIGNS, VISION ACUITY, HEAD, EYES, EARS, NOSE AND THROAT EXAM).

Where medical examination show that medical treatment and/or hospitalization is necessary, the same shall be provided free of charge by the government entity paying the salary of the teachers.

In regions where there is scarcity of medical facilities, teachers may obtain elsewhere the necessary medical care, with the right to be reimbursed, for their travelling expenses by the government entity concerned in the first paragraph of this Section.”

**SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

**SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws and issuances and their implementing rules, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 4. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*