

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7155



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF QUARANTINE FACILITIES IN
EVERY REGION IN THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the persistence of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in the country, there exists an urgent need to establish adequate quarantine facilities to aid the public health sector in the delivery of services and taking care of patients. The World Health Organization recommends quarantine strategies or isolating persons who have or are suspected to have been exposed to a serious contagious or infectious disease. Hence, quarantine or isolation mechanisms should be institutionalized to be part of standard medical precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of any infectious disease.

This bill seeks to establish adequate quarantine facilities in every region to prepare for such outbreaks. These facilities are designed for patients or persons who have or are suspected to have epidemiologically important pathogens that can be transmitted by airborne, droplet, or physical contact that may lead to infectious diseases. These facilities shall provide utmost care to patients and protect the public from further experiencing health risks brought about by epidemics.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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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 as the "Mandatory Quarantine Facilities Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to improve the delivery of health care services to the people, and to protect the people from public health threats during public health emergencies through the efficient and effective response system for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, diseases for elimination and eradication, epidemics, and health events including chemical, radio-nuclear and environmental agents of public health concern.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Quarantine Facilities.* – There shall be established quarantine facilities in every region in the country. The quarantine facilities shall be fully equipped to include the needs of individuals who are quarantined including, but not limited to, adequate food, clothing, means of communication, and competent medical care.

Each location for every quarantine facility shall be identified by the Department of Health (DOH) in close coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and local government units (LGUs) concerned; *Provided*, That the quarantine facilities shall be easily accessible

to a DOH hospital and shall be strategically located to ensure the safety of the community.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with LGUs, shall be in charge of the construction of quarantine facilities, formulation of building specifications based on standards, issuances and other guidelines.

SECTION 4. *Operations and Management of the Quarantine Facilities.*

– The DOH shall be primarily responsible for the operation, supervision, and management of the quarantine facilities established under this Act. The DOH shall issue guidelines on the procedure and proper use of quarantine facilities within thirty (30) days from the effectivity this Act.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to establish and operate quarantine facilities shall be included under the Department of Health in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH, DPWH, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,