

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7244

Introduced by HON. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

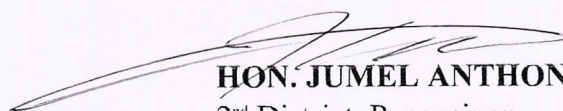
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid19) has been spreading rapidly worldwide with millions infected and hundreds of thousands of death. The rapidly evolving disease and increasing number of suspected and confirmed cases has stressed and overwhelmed our country's health care system especially our health care workers. They were exhausted with the workload as well as being fearful of uncertainty and exposure to infection.

As a result of this, local government units whose officials and employees do not have experience in providing health care much more on infectious disease, had to step up to provide care for patients with the infectious disease. We have seen and heard of employees from the different departments of local government units being deployed and becoming frontliners to augment health care workers who are under staffed, spread thinly or have been infected themselves.

This bill provides for the capacity building of local officials and employees in order to train them to better respond to emerging infectious diseases and promote preparedness and efficacy in crisis management. It would also equip local government units to use self-managed strategies to cope with an epidemic.

Considering the importance of this bill, passage is earnestly sought.



HON. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO
2nd District, Pangasinan

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING CAPACITY BUILDING FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS
DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND CONTROL AT THE LOCAL LEVEL,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. **Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Institutionalization of Capacity Building for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness and Control at the Local Level.”

SECTION 2. **Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the efficient allocation and development of highly trained manpower at the local level through the acquisition of skills, knowledge and training to assist and respond to emerging infectious disease.

SECTION 3. **Objectives.** – This Act shall have the following objectives:

- a.) Develop the capabilities of through training interventions of partners in the local government units and in the formulation and implementation of localized plans and programs in responding to emerging infectious diseases;
- b.) Maximize available but limited resources, develop a comprehensive training plan that is responsive to the current needs of the community affected by an infectious disease;
- c.) Recognize, solicit and enjoin the participation of concerned local and national government agencies in the implementation of the multi-sectoral localized plan;
- d.) Develop education and training policies and programs that will enhance or enable local officials to become first responders to a local infectious situation.

SECTION 4. Coverage. - This capacity building at the local level shall cover, but not limited to, the following efforts and activities:

- a.) Environmental infection scanning and health needs assessment;
- b.) Formulation and implementation of multi-sectoral plan of pre-cautionary measures;
- c.) Aggressive contact tracing and disease surveillance;
- d.) Implementation of health isolation system;
- e.) Tight controlling of entry of people into the community;
- f.) Promotion of personal protective behavior in the community;
- g.) Management and disposal of infectious waste;
- h.) Monitor public compliance of community health protocols.

SECTION 5. Formulation of Local Level Capacity Building for Emerging Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response. – All provinces, cities and municipalities shall formulate a local level capacity building program and training to prepare and respond to emerging infectious diseases in their respective communities and areas of jurisdiction.

The preparation and training program shall be formulated and implemented through the contributory efforts of the local government units, the Department of Health and its attached agencies, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Office Civil Defense of the Department of National Defense, Philippine Red Cross and other local non-government organizations.

SECTION 6. Implementation. – All local government units shall ensure that the capacity building program implemented is responsive to the community needs to prepare for and control an emerging infectious disease.

SECTION 7. Appropriation. – The Local Government Unit, through their local development fund, the Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local Government shall equally allocate fund for implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – If for any reason a provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the rest shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.