



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7852

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As of October 2020, there are more than three hundred thirty thousand (330,000) cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines. Moreover, in an article of the Asean Post, it was said that because of COVID-19, it is estimated that the deficit of the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to be around 8.1% which translates to Php1.56 trillion. The pandemic is of a precarious nature affecting not only the health and lives of the people but also the economy of the country. There are two things that must be done – solve the immediate problem and prevent the effects of the pandemic from happening again in our country.

Solving the immediate problem entails the development of a cure or a vaccine that will treat the virus and also reduce the risk of getting the disease. There are currently forty-eight (48) vaccines in development worldwide which are in different phases and only two (2) of these have passed Phase 3 leaving these with one (1) more phase in order to be approved for full use. While everyone should be hopeful in finally having the cure of this vicious disease, one must not stand idly and simply wait for this vaccine. Measures to reduce the transmission of the disease that should also be applicable in the future, should there be another emergence of an infectious disease, have to be created.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), isolation of people who have been exposed to any serious or contagious disease is the most effective way to prevent its transmission. For this reason, this Bill is intended to establish a quarantine facility in every region in the country. These facilities shall be equipped with adequate food, clothing, means of communication, and competent medical care. Considering that there is no immediate solution to eradicate COVID-19 yet, it is best that the country gets into a position where it is able to defend its people against the corona virus or any other disease for that matter. Likewise, the establishment of these quarantine facilities will also be helpful in the future because introducing effective quarantine measures early in an outbreak may delay the introduction of an infectious disease to a country or area.

In view of the foregoing the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


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1
2 **AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF QUARANTINE**
3 **FACILITIES IN EVERY REGION IN THE COUNTRY PROVIDING**
4 **FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
5

6 *Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*
7 *Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

8 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Mandatory**
9 **Quarantine Facilities Act of 2020**”.

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

17 **SECTION 3. Establishment of Quarantine Facilities.** – There shall be
18 established a quarantine facility in every region in the country. The quarantine
19 facilities shall be fully equipped to include the needs of individuals who are

1 quarantined including, but not limited to, adequate food, clothing, means of
2 communication, and competent medical care.

3 Each location for every quarantine facility shall be identified by the
4 Department of Health (DOH) in close coordination with the Department of
5 Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Local Government Units (LGUs)
6 concerned;

7 *Provided, That the quarantine facilities shall be easily accessible to a*
8 *DOH hospital and shall be strategically located to ensure the safety of the*
9 *community. The DPWH, in coordination with the LGUs, shall be in charge*
10 *of the construction of quarantine facilities, formulation of building*
11 *specifications based on standards, issuances of the governments and*
12 *other guidelines appropriate for its construction.*

13 **SECTION 4. Operations and Management of the Quarantine**
14 **Facilities.** – The DOH shall be primarily responsible for the operation,
15 supervision, and management of the quarantine facilities established under
16 this Act. The DOH shall issue guidelines on the procedure and proper use of
17 quarantine facilities within thirty (30) days from the effectivity this Act.

18 **SECTION 5. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to establish
19 and operate quarantine facilities shall be included in the annual General
20 Appropriations Act.

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

27 **SECTION 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is
28 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected
29 thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

1 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All acts, executive orders,
2 memorandum circulars/guidelines and other issuances or parts thereof,
3 which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified
4 accordingly.

5 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
6 after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2)
7 national newspapers of general circulation.

8 **Approved.**