



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8007

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 virus remains to pose a serious threat worldwide and infects continuously a significant number of people daily, thereby resulting to the surge of the number of infected individuals daily. As of November 16, 2020, there have been a confirmed 54.1 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide. In the Philippines alone, there have already been a confirmed 408,000 total cases. These numbers show how much the entire world is in need of a weapon to stop the spread of this virus. The most ideal solution to this threat is the creation of a vaccine against COVID-19.

The world awaits for disease research scientists to discover a vaccine that could defeat SARS Cov2, the virus that causes COVID-19. A vaccine is a biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a particular infectious disease. Vaccines work in such a way that it trains the human immune system to recognize and combat pathogens which could either be viruses or bacteria. In order for this to happen, molecules from the pathogen are introduced to the body in order to facilitate a response from the immune system and produce antibodies. This way, when the bacteria or virus re-appears and affects a human body, the immune system will be able to recognize this antigen and attack the same.

While vaccines would normally take 10-15 years to be developed with the vaccine for mumps being the fastest at four (4) years in the 1960s, with the technology that the world has wide access to and the amount of effort that is being exerted by scientists worldwide, optimistically speaking a safe and effective vaccine may be developed by mid-2021. Still, the problem does not end upon the creation of a vaccine. Worldwide access is also an issue that should be given much attention.

The World Health Organization has already created an initial plan for those who should be given priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine given that it targets to deliver two billion doses by the end of 2021. After health-care workers, medically vulnerable groups should be among the first to receive the vaccine. Similarly, people who live in crowded settings should also be given priority access.

Once available, the Philippines should be ready for the distribution of the vaccine to the Filipino people. This Bill is intended to give free access to all Filipinos of the COVID-19 vaccine. The implementation of the efficient and effective delivery of the vaccine is also a priority set forth in this Bill.

Considering the importance that this Bill centers upon, its passage is earnestly sought.


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1
2 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR ALL**
3 **FILIPINOS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
4

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

7 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Free COVID-19
8 Vaccination Act of 2020”.

9 **SECTION 2. Coverage.** – Every Filipino in the country shall be entitled to free
10 access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

11 **SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – To ensure the extensive and efficient
12 delivery, the Department of Health (DOH) and its attached agencies, in partnership with
13 the Department of Interior and Local Government (DOLE), shall thereby formulate and
14 promulgate the pertinent rules and regulations for the implementation of the program
15 within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act.

16 **SECTION 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of
17 this Act shall be charged against current appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, such
18 sums necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the
19 General Appropriations Act.

1 **SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
2 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and
3 subsisting.

4 **SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All acts, executive orders, memorandum
5 circulars/guidelines and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with
6 this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

7 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation

9 **Approved.**