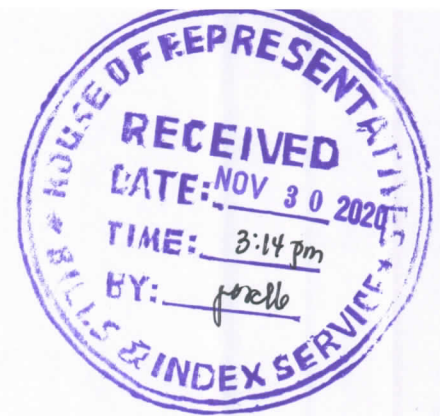


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8104**



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

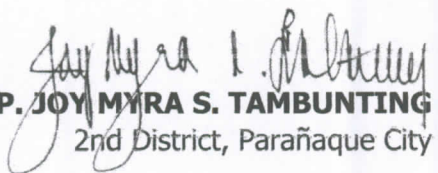
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Almost nine months since our lock-downs began and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, our country is still experiencing a steady increase of COVID-19 infections, with a total of 424,297 cases at present. As we continue to navigate our way to beating this pandemic, we proactively try to propose measures and policies which could help our nation combat COVID-19. Presently, foreign pharmaceutical companies are presently racing to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, with six COVID-19 vaccine candidates having entered phase-3 trials. The Department of Health has since reported that Philippines' purchase and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines can only be made starting the second quarter of 2021.

Considering the current progress in the vaccine race and the DOH's timeline regards the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, this Representation believes that it is only appropriate that the Department of Health, in coordination with local government units and other the Department of Interior and Local Government, plan for the safe, efficient and timely distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine by creating a program that would ensure the maximization of the impact of the vaccines on minimizing the transmission of the disease.

The early preparation of a comprehensive vaccination plan will allow for the speedy distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines; and will consequently hasten the resumption of normal activities which would greatly help our economy's recovery. We must make the vaccine accessible to our countrymen if we are to put an end to this pandemic.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8104**

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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 "The COVID-19 Vaccination Act".

Sec. 2. Coverage. – Every Filipino residing within Philippine territory who requests to be vaccinated shall be entitled to a free COVID-19 vaccine.

Sec. 3. COVID-19 Vaccination Program. – The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases shall create a program for the safe, efficient and timely distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to every Filipino. The program shall include a comprehensive plan which identifies the logistical needs for the transport, storage, and distribution of vaccines, and the strategic, scientific and ethical prioritization of the distribution of vaccines towards maximizing the impact of the vaccines on minimizing the transmission of the disease.

Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – To ensure the safe delivery of COVID-19 Vaccines, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases is directed to collaborate with the local government units. The Department of Health shall thereby formulate and promulgate the pertinent rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act within forty-five (45) days from the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 5. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against current appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. Private sector funding for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program shall be permitted. Private companies may avail of any tax incentives/credits present under current tax laws for their financing of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

Sec. 6. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,