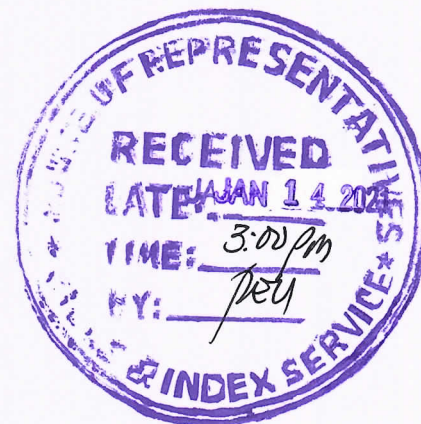


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8379



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI

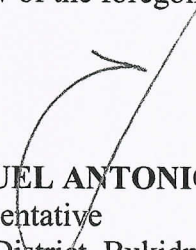
EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the vaccine against COVID-19 in the horizon, the government has already procured the same for distribution to its constituents. Other municipalities who are capable to procure the same for themselves have done the same.

However, not all municipalities are able to procure the vaccines needed by their respective constituents and that number of vaccines procured by the national government remains clearly inadequate given the number of population of the country vis-à-vis the number of vaccines obtained.

As such, municipalities who belong in the lower tier or municipalities which cannot afford to procure the vaccines on their own are at risk of not receiving any vaccines. To ensure that no one will be left behind, it is the intent of this measure that the distribution of the vaccines be made to these municipalities which belong in the lower tier.

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


MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI
Representative
Third District, Bukidnon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8379

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT

MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PRIORITIZE THE ALLOCATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH, AND SIXTH CLASS MUNICIPALITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good. It is also the declared policy of the state to promote social justice by ensuring that the poor shall have access to vaccines that will provide protection against COVID-19.

SECTION 2. *Vaccine Priority Distribution.* – The Department of Health (DOH) is hereby mandated to prioritize the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to municipalities who cannot afford to procure their own for their constituents. For this purpose, municipalities classified as Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth municipalities in accordance with the latest income classification of municipalities shall be prioritized in receiving the vaccine for COVID-19.

Persons deemed in dire need of the vaccine against COVID-19 as determined by competent medical personnel and approved by the DOH will be given access provided they are unable to procure or purchase the same personally.

SECTION 3. *Role of Local Government Units.* – Nothing in this Act prevents any Local Government Unit from procuring their own vaccines for their constituents regardless of their classification should their respective means permit them to do so.

Local Government Units falling classified as Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth municipalities shall coordinate with the DOH who among their constituents are in dire need of the vaccines to further prioritize its distribution to them.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the distribution of the vaccine/s against COVID-19 shall be chargeable to the budget of the DOH and related agencies tasked to curb the spread of COVID-19. The budget set aside by the government for this purpose as directed by the Office of the President shall also be charged in the procurement and distribution of the vaccines.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,