

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8501

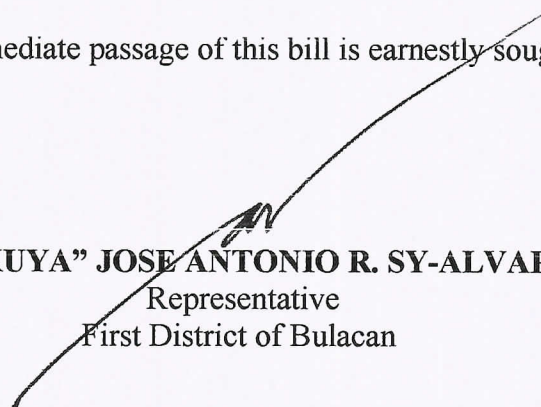
Introduced by: **CONG. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Health, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers." Now that vaccines are already available, various nations across the globe are lining up to purchase. Our expectation is to administer the vaccine to as many and as quickly as possible to enough members of the population. This is to dramatically slow down and reduce the risk of infection.

The humble intention of this bill is to aid reach the goal of procuring and administering the vaccine as early as possible by outrightly authorizing the Local Government Units and the private sector to procure the vaccine.

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


CONG. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO
Representative
First District of Bulacan

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8501

Introduced by: **CONG. “KUYA” JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

AN ACT
ALLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR
TO PROCURE AND ADMINISTER COVID-19 VACCINES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the health and safety of the public and to promote a just and dynamic social order that will prosper and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty. Towards this end, and acknowledging the adverse economic and societal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State shall allow Local Government Units (LGU) and the private sector to engage in the procurement and administration of COVID-19 vaccines for the immediate and efficient vaccination for all Filipinos.

SECTION 2. *LGU and Private Sector Authorization.* - Local Government Units and duly registered businesses with the Securities and Exchange Commission or Department of Trade and Industry are hereby authorized to procure and administer COVID-19 vaccines and other supplies necessary for its effective storage, transportation and administration; Provided, That the vaccines as authorized herein shall be exclusively for the residents of the Local Government Unit or for the individuals, or their dependents, in the employment of a private business entity.

SECTION 3. *Exception from Universal Health Care Law.* - The requirement of Phase IV trials for COVID-19 vaccines stated in the Universal Healthcare Law is hereby waived to expedite the procurement and administration of the said vaccines; Provided, That the following minimum safeguards are in place:

- a. The vaccine is approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other internationally recognized agencies or international medical community;
- b. Conduct of safety and effectiveness surveillance, aligned with surveillance reporting systems from other countries' regulatory authorities;
- c. Risk communication on the benefits and risks of the vaccine;
- d. Informed consent and assent to vaccine recipients; and
- e. Conduct of community engagement activities.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other relevant agencies shall also expedite authorizations for vaccines or which trials have been conducted successfully.

SECTION 4. *Tax Exemption.* – The importation of COVID-19 vaccines under this act shall be exempt from customs duties, value added taxes, excise taxes and other fees.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Committee on the Rightsizing of the National Government shall formulate the necessary IRR within fifteen (15) days after effectivity of this act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any of provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,